Makoto Yukimura

VINLAND SAGA

BOOK·ONE

FROM THE DISTANT NORTH...

...THEY COME, BRINGING WITH THEM THE BLACK CLOUDS OF WAR.

BEYOND THE FROZEN SEA...

VINLAND SAGA

CHAPTER 1: NORMANNI

MAKOTO YUKIMURA

11TH CENTURY A.D.
FRANKISH KINGDOM
TERRITORY

VINLAND SAGA

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RRA RHHH

SFF

SSFF

BAMM

BAM

SSFF

BABAM

ZWFF

RRA

HHH

AAAHHH

BABAM

BAM

PYEW

BABAM

TWSH

SSFT

DMMM

DMMM

DMMM

DMMM

DMMM

WHAT'RE YA WAITIN' FOR?! BRING THE GATE DOWN NOW!!

FWSH

FZMM

SHIT!!

SHIELDS! WE NEED MORE DAMNED SHIELDS !!

FZMM

AAGH YAHH

DGOM

AAAAA

RAAAHHHH
IT'S A BATTERING RAM!!
UNNNOU
CROSS-BOWS TO THE FORE!!
HYMM
PYEW
SHOOT IN ALTERNATING ROWS!!
FIRST ROW, NOCK!!
LOOSE!!
BSHU

CRUNCH

RETREAT FOR NOW! PULL BACK, MEN!!

RETREAT !!

IT'S NO GOOD! REGROUP !!

RAAHHH

WOMEN! TEND TO THE WOUNDED!

RETRIEVE ARROWS AND BOLTS NOW, WHILE YOU CAN!

WELL DONE, BOYS!!

WE MUST SIMPLY ENDURE UNTIL THEN.

IF THE ENTIRE TOWN POOLS ITS STRENGTH AND FIGHTS TOGETHER, WE *WILL* SURVIVE.

THE SNOW IS COMING SOON, AND THAT WILL FORCE THE ENEMY TO ABANDON HIS SIEGE.

OUCH...

ACK!

THWUP

HRRG...

RRGH...

AAAH!

WE ONLY NEED TO REINFORCE THE HILLSIDE GATE.

THE LAKE BEHIND US WILL KEEP OUR BACKS SAFE.

WELL, WELL, WELL.

THE SIEGE APPEARS TO BE BREAK-ING.

LIKE WE THOUGHT, IT'S A SKIRMISH BETWEEN FRANKISH TRIBES.

I'D PUT THE ATTACKERS AT ABOUT EIGHT HUNDRED; FAR FEWER IN THE TOWN.

WHAT DO YOU THINK, ASKE-LADD?

LOOK AT THE FOOLS, DASHING THEIR HEADS STRAIGHT AGAINST THE WALLS.

HMM.

MORE IN IT FOR US THAT WAY.

YEP.

AHA! SO WE'RE IN?

WILL WE SIDE WITH THE ATTACK-ERS?

LOOKS LIKE THE LOCAL STRONG-HOLD TO ME.

I CAN PRAC-TICALLY *SMELL* THE TREASURE FROM HERE.

THOR-FINN! YOU'RE UP!

BUT WE DON'T DO THIS FOR A PITTANCE. WE SMASH THE CHESTS OPEN AND SEIZE EVERY LAST COIN WITHIN.

NOW THEN...

SHKK

TUG

WE'RE JOIN-ING IN.

SEND A MESSAGE TO THE LEADER OF THE ATTACKING ARMY.

HERE'S THE TACK WE TAKE.

ZSHK

"THEREFORE, OUR BAND OF WARRIORS OFFERS ITS AID."

"CONSIDER THIS ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME OPPORTUNITY WISELY, FOR WE WILL SURELY GUIDE YOU TO VICTORY."

"YOUR TACTICS ARE PITIFUL!"

"THEY ARE A SIGHT TO MAKE ONE RETCH!"

ONCE YOU'VE GIVEN THEM THE MESSAGE, REMAIN AMONG THEM AND OBSERVE THE TIDE OF BATTLE.

UNDERSTOOD? NOW GO.

"ALL WE ASK IN RETURN IS HALF THE SPOILS OF WAR ON THE DAY OF THE FORTRESS'S FALL."

"RESUME THE SIEGE IN THE MORN."

REWARD? IF THE NEGOTIATION'S A SUCCESS, YOU'LL HAVE THREE GOLD COINS.

I SWEAR UPON TYR.

♪

PROMISE ME A REWARD.

?

WHAT? I GAVE YOU AN ORDER, THORFINN.

WHO ASKED FOR THAT SHIT?

YOU KNOW DAMN WELL WHAT I WANT, ASKELADD.

BUT IF THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT, BOY...

...I'LL NEED YOU TO BRING ME THE HEAD OF A COMMANDER, AT LEAST.

OOH, NOW THAT'S A SCARY FACE!

JUST A BIT OF HUMOR, THAT'S ALL.

ZSH...

...

THE LOSING SIDE WILL BE ON EDGE.

THE ENVOY MIGHT BE GUTTED BEFORE ANYONE EVEN GETS TO THE TABLE. HAPPENS ALL THE TIME.

HM...

WHY DO YOU LET HIM HANDLE THE NEGO-TIATIONS, ASKE-LADD?

LITTLE BAS-TARD'S GOT SUCH AN ATTI-TUDE.

AND WHO CARES IF WE LOSE ONE MEASLY BRAT WE PICKED UP ALONG THE WAY?

C'EST QUOI, CE GAMIN! (WHO ARE YOU, BOY?!)

HÉ! PAS POUR DES GOSSES ICI! (THIS IS NO PLACE FOR CHILDREN!)

C'EST PAS UN FRANK. (HE SURE AIN'T A FRANK.)

QU'EST-CE QU'IL DIT? (WHAT'S HE SPEAKING?)

CAN ANYONE HERE SPEAK NORSE?

I'M A MESSENGER.

RETIENT-LE. (SEIZE HIM.)

SALE GOSSE. (DON'T LIKE THIS KID.)

ÇA PEUT ÊTRE UN ESPION. (HE COULD BE A SPY.)

ZWIP

AIIEEEEEE !!

QUOI ?!!

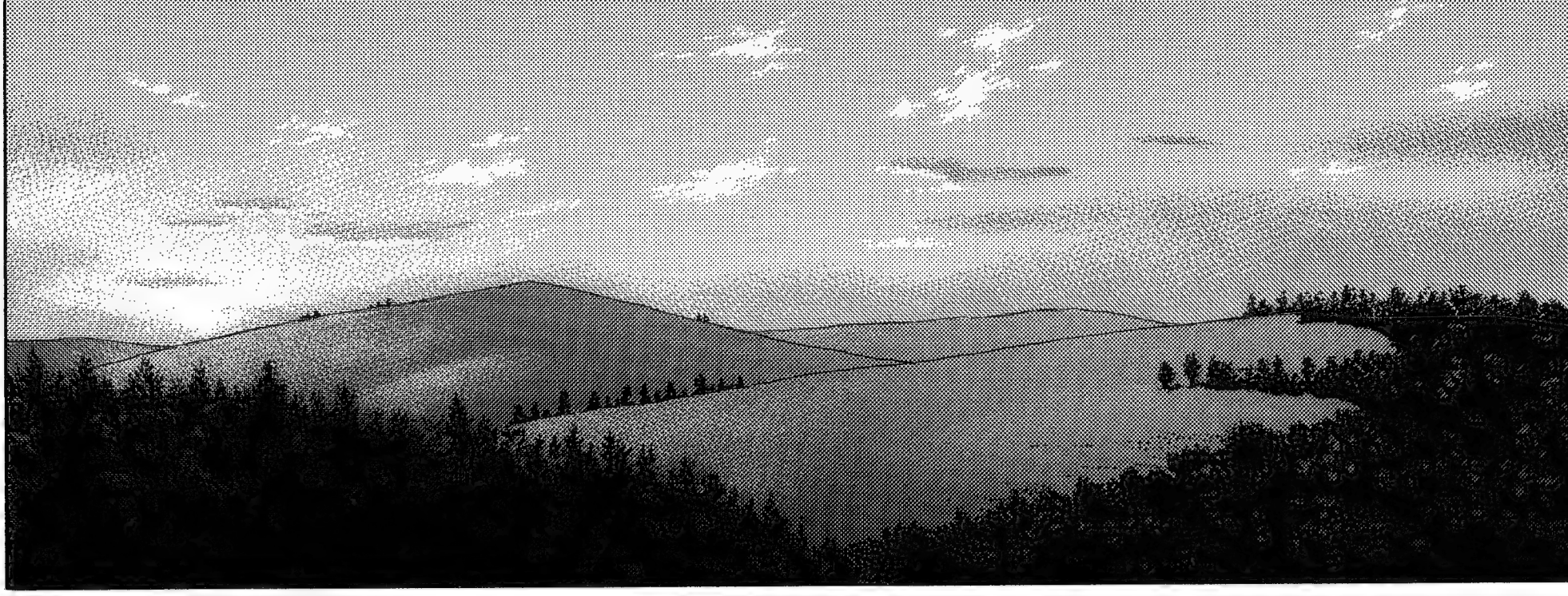
SPIN

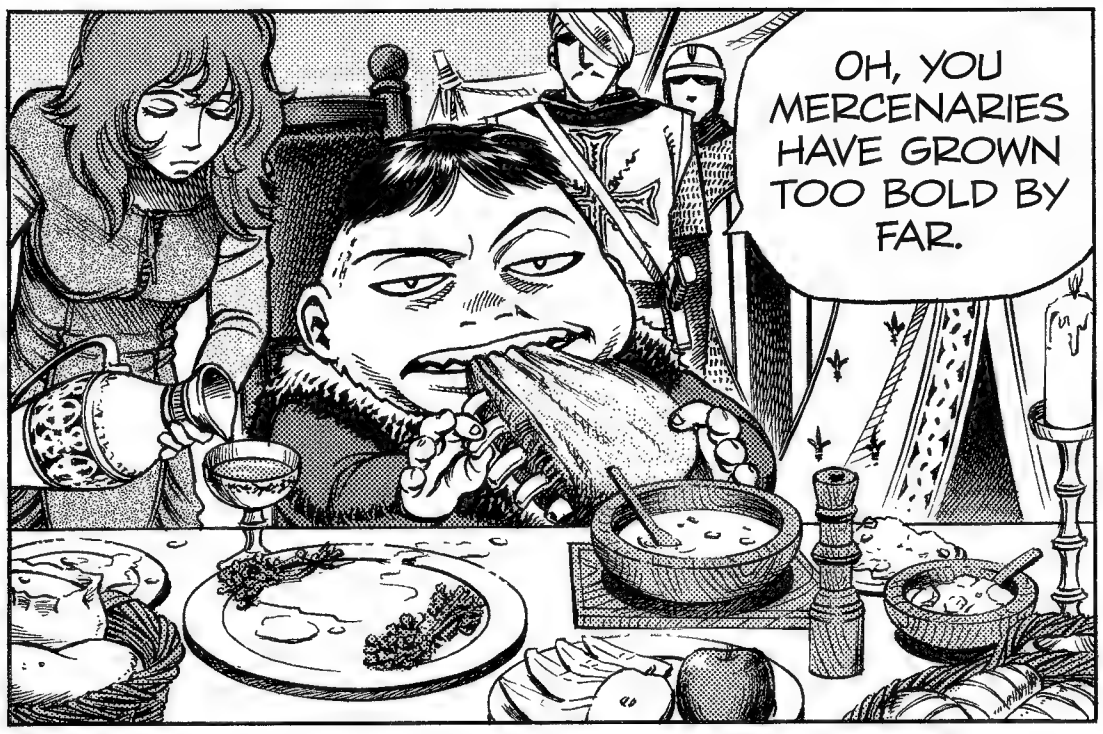
?!

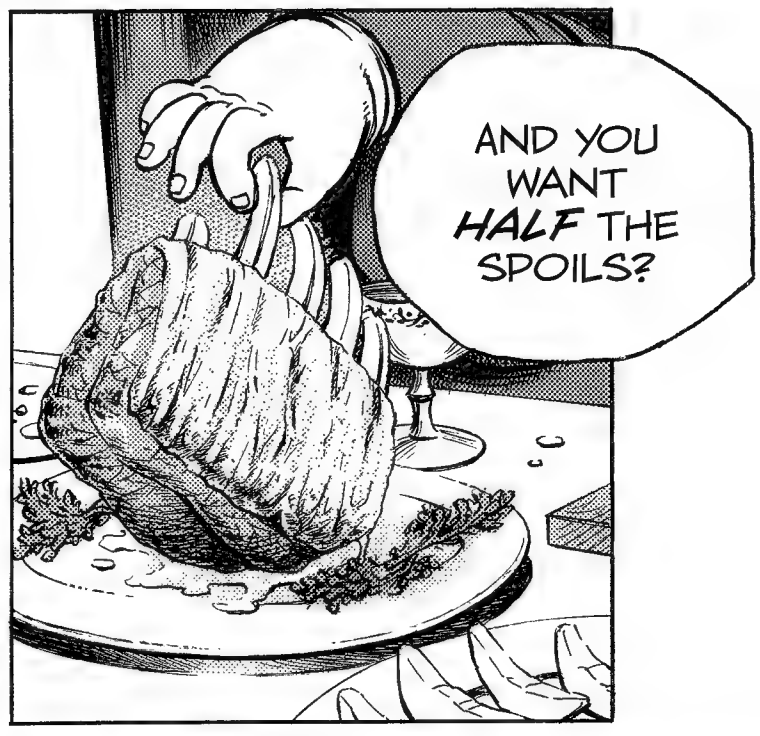
CRIK...

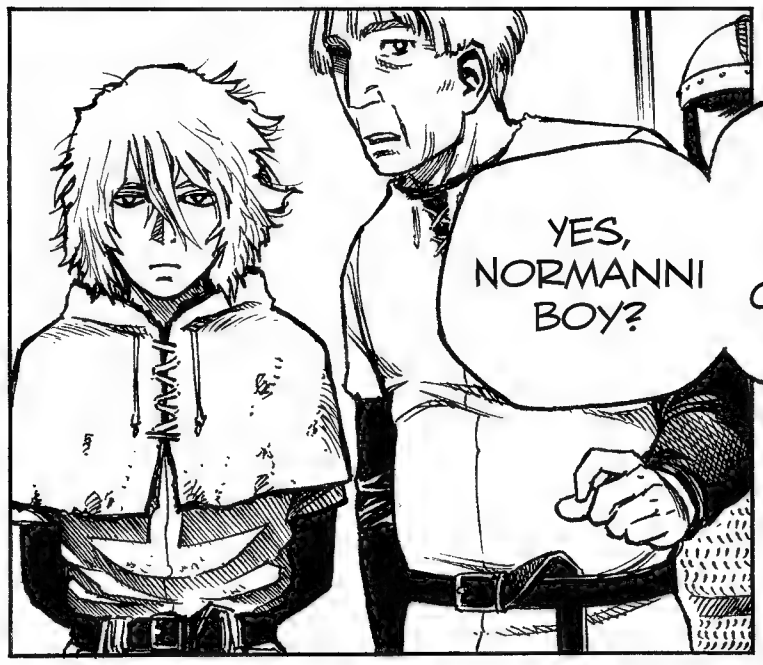
I'M A MESSEN-GER!!

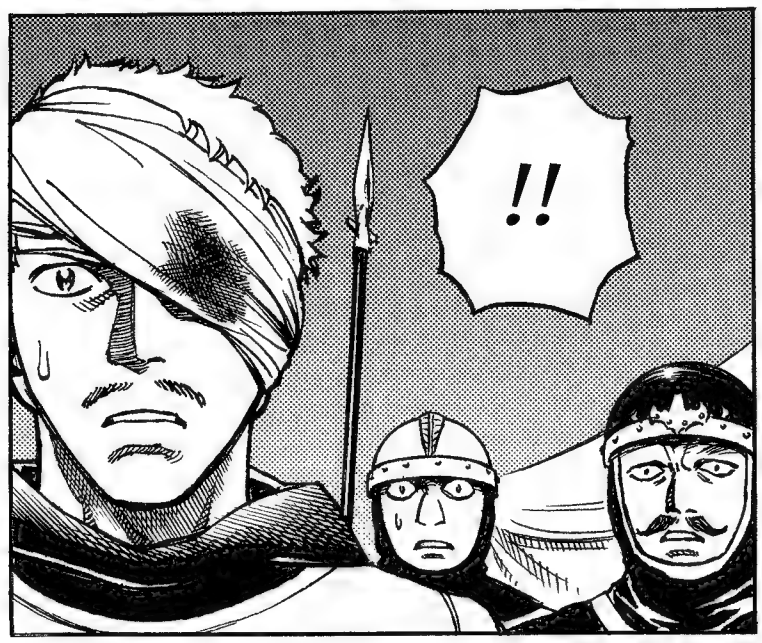
CAN ANYONE HERE SPEAK NORSE ?!




OH, YOU MERCENARIES HAVE GROWN TOO BOLD BY FAR.


AND YOU WANT *HALF* THE SPOILS?


YES, NORMANNI BOY?


!!

BUT SUCH BOLDNESS IMPLIES CONFIDENCE.

NORMANNI...

THEY'RE CONCENTRATED TOWARD THE HILLSIDE GATE, LEAVING THE LAKESIDE OPEN. THAT'S WHERE WE'LL STRIKE.

YOU OUT-NUMBER THE DEFEND-ERS.

EVEN A BOY CAN SEE...

...THAT ATTACKING THE MAIN GATE ALONE ACHIEVES NOTHING BUT THE SLAUGH-TER OF YOUR OWN MEN.

IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO SAIL A SHIP INTO THAT LAKE!

IF IT WERE THAT EASY, WE'D HAVE DONE IT ALREADY!!

PAH! I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN YOU SAVAGES WERE IGNORANT.

OUR SHIPS ARE MAROONED A MILE DOWNRIVER.

OTHERWISE WE *WOULD* ATTACK BY WATER.

THE NEAREST RIVER FLOWS FIERCER THE CLOSER YOU GET TO THE LAKE. THERE ARE EVEN WATERFALLS.

SO YOU *WON'T* ACCEPT OUR OFFER?

BECAUSE ASKELADD WILL TAKE HIS HUNDRED MEN RIGHT TO THE DEFENDERS.

...HE SAYS.

MUR-MUR...

HEIN?! (WHA?!)

FERMES-LA! (SHUT YOUR INSOLENT MOUTH!!)

IF I DON'T GIVE THE ALL-CLEAR SIGNAL...

...YOU WILL INSTANTLY BE UP AGAINST A HUNDRED HARDENED WARRIORS OF THE NORTH.

THE SAME WILL HAPPEN IF I DIE.

...BAH.

DO AS YOU WISH.

BUT IF THEY ARE GOOD AND TRUE, IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST, YOU WILL HAVE YOUR FAIR SHARE OF THE RICHES.

I WANT MY SHORT SWORDS BACK.

THEY'RE A ME-MENTO OF MY FATHER.

MY LORD!

IF YOUR WORDS ARE SHOWN FALSE, I WILL HAVE YOUR HEAD.

KRRK...

FYEWW

BNFF

I SAW NO LIE IN HIS EYES.

THE HUNDRED NORMANS HE SPOKE OF MUST BE REAL.

YES! AHH, RIGHT THERE.

ARE YOU CERTAIN ABOUT THIS, MY LORD...?

MMM?

EVEN IF THERE ARE ONLY A HUNDRED, NO POINT IN MAKING FOES OF THEM.

WITH THEIR AID, WE CAN LIKELY DECREASE OUR OWN LOSSES.

HALF?

WHO SAID ANYTHING ABOUT HALF?

BUT, MY LORD...

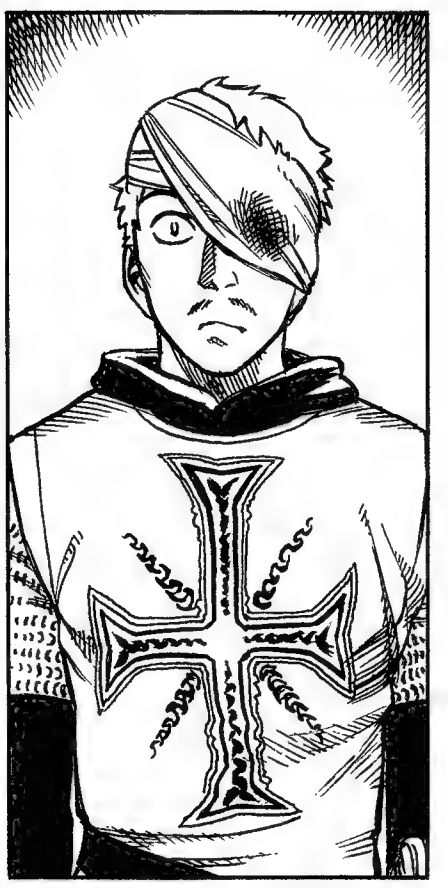
BAM

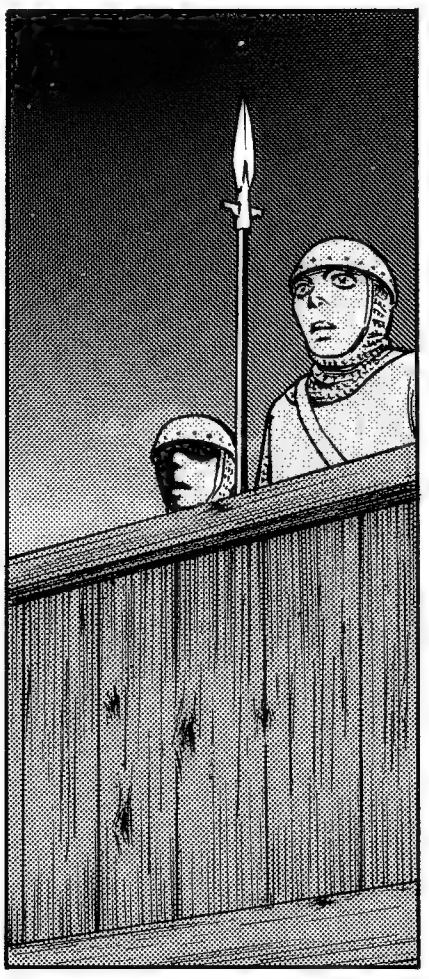
TO PROMISE THEM HALF OF THE SPOILS OF WAR...

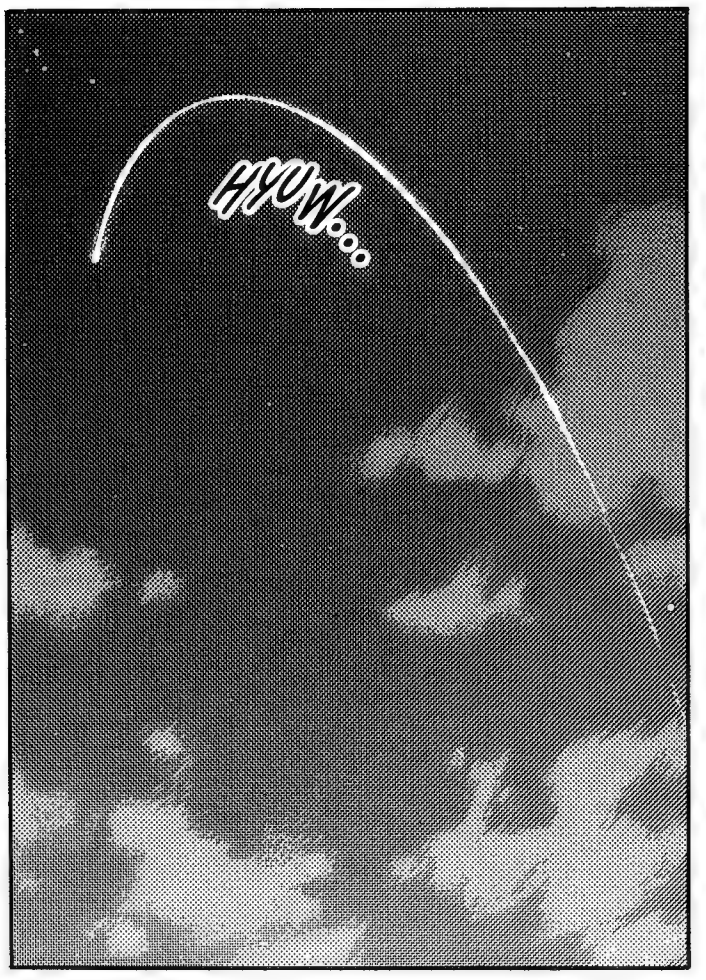
DAMN IT! IT'S HUGE!!!

THESE ARE UNCOUTH BARBARIANS FROM THE FAR NORTH.

GOD WILL NOT PUNISH A GOOD CHRISTIAN FOR TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE PAGAN HORDES.







MUST BE A SIGNAL OF SOME KIND.

MOST LIKELY...

ANOTHER ONE.

THAT MAKES FOUR.

BE ON GUARD.

THEY'LL TRY SOMETHING DIFFERENT TOMORROW.

YES SIR!

...

MAKING CONTACT WITH ANOTHER COMPANY, PERHAPS?

THAT'LL BE THOR-FINN.

ONE HIGH, THREE LOW.

FSHH...

GREAT. THAT'S ALL WE NEED TO KNOW.

THEY'LL BE STRIKING AT SUN-UP.

WE MUST BE OVER THE PEAK BEFORE THE MOON RISES.

ON THE DOUBLE, LADS!

DSHHH

WHOOO...

WHOO...

DAHH!!

I CAN'T TAKE ENNYMORE A'DIS!!

BSHH...

DSSHHH

HOW'S A MAN GUNNA MAKE A NAME FOR HISSELF AWAY FROM BATTLE?!

STANDIN' SHIP GUARD ALLA WAY DOWN HERE?! PAH!

OUR ARMY'S SCRATCHIN' TOOTH AN' NAIL CROSS THE FALLS, I HEAR.

LEAST WE'RE SAFE DOWN HERE.

FERGEDDIT, YE'LL ONLY GET YERSELF KILT.

I LEFF HOME AN' TOLL EVERYONE I'D BE A KNIGHT!

PUT ME OUT ON THE FIELD AN' LEMME FIGHT, YA FAT PIG!!

CRUNK

CRAK SWASH

WHOOSH WHOOSH

IF YA SO AFRAIDA FIGHTIN', WHYJA FOLLA ME TO BATTLE?!

PEH! COWARD.

YOU BEEN YELLA SINCE WE WAS KIDS.

...

CUZ I'M CON-CERNED FOR YA.

PAT PAT

WHAAT?

WHAT'S DIS NOW, TUBBY?

LOOK UP THERE...

WUSS ALL THE MUTTERIN' ABOUT?!

I DON'T NEED NO STINKIN' BABYSIDDER!!

I WUZ DA ROWDIEST BRAWLER IN DA VILLAGE, AND YOU AIN'T NEVER EVEN BEEN INNA FIGHT...

MURMUR

MURMUR

?

RIGHT NEAR THE PEAK.

SOMETHIN' POPPED UP FOR A SEC...

GRAH...
GRAH...

AAAHHH
A... A DRAGON ON THE MOUNTAIN-TOP!!
IT'S A *DRAGON* !!
...DRAGON.
...
OH, BUGGER ME...

CHIP...

CHRRP...

ZMM ZMM ZMM ZMM ZMM

KSHAK

CLANK

AHMM.

A DRAGON CLIMBING THE MOUNTAIN?

YAAWN...

AHH...

YES, MY LORD. THE SHIP GUARDS SENT A REPORT LAST NIGHT.

BUT ENOUGH ABOUT THAT...

BOY!!

I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO SEE A DRAGON!

HA HA HA!

IT IS AN ILL OMEN, MY LIEGE.

YOUR FRIENDS ARE NO-SHOWS.

THE SUN IS OUT AND RISING.

YOU'LL SEE SOON ENOUGH.

JUST GET ON WITH THE ATTACK, FAT-ASS.

IT SEEMS YOUR HEAD WILL BE THE CENTER-PIECE OF OUR VICTORY FEAST TONIGHT, BOY!!

PREPARE TO ATTACK!!

YOU JUST INSULTED ME, DIDN'T YOU?

I'VE AN EAR FOR THESE THINGS.

CHEEKY WHELP...

KAAAHHH
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
TRY IT AS MANY TIMES AS YOU LIKE!!
RAHH
HH
POKE 'EM FULL OF HOLES!!

BYUM
BAM
FWUM
FWUM
BYUM
BABAM
RAAHHH
BAM
BAMM
DMM
DMM
UH-
OH.
SHOW'S
ALREADY
STARTED.
RAAHHH
DMM
WE'RE LATE
TO THE
PARTY, LADS!
PUT SOME
SPIRIT INTO
IT!!
THE
BATTLEFIELD
AWAITS!!!!
DMM DMM DMM

AYE!!

YEOW!!

IT'S BOILING!!

PSHH

EEEK

AAGH

SPASHH

RAHHH
YEOW!
YEOW!
EEEP!
BLOOSH SPLOSH
RAAHH
WHOOSH
GO, GO, GO! KILL 'EM ALL!!
KTING
SWISH
GRSHK
RAHHH

RAHHHH

SILENCE THOSE ARROWS!

I WANT LADDERS ON THE WEST FACE, CASUALTIES BE DAMNED!

HEY, INTER-PRETER.

WHICH ONE'S THE ENEMY LEADER?

...GOOD.

FWEET

PWEEP

CREAAK

FSHH

RAHHH

AHH.

SEE THE ONE WITH THE FEATHERED HELM? THAT'S HIM.

AHH?!

WHERE ARE YOU GOING, BOY?!

ZSH ZSH ZSH

DASH

KILL THE BRAT BEFORE HE ESCAPES!!

I *KNEW* HE WAS LYING!

RAHHH

WHAT IN-CREDIBLE SPEED!

DAMN YOU!!

HE'S ALREADY LOST IN THE BATTLE...

BMMM

MM!

DSH DSH

KANG

DMFF

DUKK

THUK

DSH DSH

ZWIP ZWIP ZWIP

RAHHH

THEY *HAVE* NO STRATEGY, COMMANDER.

IT SEEMS WE'VE OVER-ESTIMATED OUR FOE.

...

RAHH

HMPH. SUCH SIMPLE-MIND-EDNESS.

THEY REPEAT THE SAME POINTLESS STRATEGY, LOSING MORE MEN EVERY TIME.

EEEK

GYAAA

AAAHH

AAAA RGH

THE BOY RUNS OFF, THE FORTRESS STILL STANDS, AND THERE ARE NO ALLIES!!

WHAT'S WRONG WITH THIS STUPID ARMY?!

DMM DMM DMM RAHHH

LET ME BE CLEAR, WE ARE *NOT* GOING HOME WHEN THE SNOWS COME!!

WE'RE HERE UNTIL THIS FORTRESS HAS–

ARE YOU MEN OR SCARE-CROWS?!

DON'T JUST STAND THERE, *DO* SOME-THING!!

DMM DMM DMM RAHHH...

WHAT YOU HEAR IS *FIGHTING*, WHICH IS WHAT YOU OUGHT TO BE DOING RIGHT NOW!!

N-NO, MY LORD, IT'S COMING CLOSER!!

I HEAR SOMETHING STRANGE...

DMM DMM DMM DMM

Y-YES, BUT, MY LORD...

ARE YOU LISTENING TO ME?!

DMM DMM DMM DMM DMM DMM

?

DMM DMM

THERE...

HEAR IT?!

DMM

DSHH

DSH

DSH

AIEEEE!!

DSH

DSH

DSH

EEP!

1954

DSHKH

ДАДАДА

RAAHHH

SHIPS!!

THEY'VE GOT SHIPS!!

SHIPS COMING DOWN FROM THE MOUNTAINS!!

...

CLEVER BASTARDS...

CARRYING THEIR OWN SHIPS OVER THE MOUNTAIN...

DMM DMM

DMM DMM

CLONK

AHA!!

CALM THE SOLDIERS!!

IT'S THEM! THEY'RE THE *ALLIES!!*

Y-YES... THAT'S IT!!

DMM DMM DMM

ALL FORCES FORWARD!!

THE FORTRESS WILL FALL BY SUNDOWN!!

RAHHH

YES! YES! VERY GOOD!!

THE TIDE IS TURNING!!

DWOSH

ZSHH

PUT YOUR BACKS INTO IT! *PULL!!*

BOMM

AYE!

DMM

ZSHAA

ZZZSHKH

THE FIRST SHIP TO REACH THE SHORE GETS A DOUBLE SHARE!!

ZSH
ZSH
ZSH
ZSH
ZSH
LEAP

SH

KAA

SHIPS!

THEY'RE BRINGING SHIPS!!

RAHHH

RAHHH

LONG-SHIPS!!

THEY'RE GOING TO SWING AROUND THE BACK!!

DO WE EVEN HAVE ANYONE GUARDING THE LAKE-SIDE?!

IT'S A PINCER ATTACK!

AND QUICKLY!!

I WANT EIGHTY MEN FROM THE RIGHT WING TO THE LANDING! DON'T LET THEM ASHORE!!

THE REST OF YOU, REMAIN HERE AT THE GATE!!

KEEP YOUR WITS, MEN!!

IT'S ONLY THREE SHIPS!!

CROSSBOWS WITH ME!! RUN, DAMN YOU!!

YES! WE GOT BEHIND 'EM!

PULL UP TO THE LAND-ING!

HA HA! IT'S TOO EASY.

NOT A SINGLE LINE OF DEFENSE, JUST A GENTLE SLOPE TO GREET US.

IT'S LIKE THEY'RE *ASKIN'* US TO LAND.

LET'S CRUSH 'EM, BOYS!!

GLINT

WHUMM

WHFF

BAM

BABAM

ZSHH

KTANGG

THUD

AAAGH

!

TSK.

THUK

KRSHK

CROSS-BOWS.

HYUM

A FAIR NUMBER, TOO.

HYUM

I SUPPOSE WE'LL HAVE CASUAL-TIES.

BYUM

ASKE-LADD!!

WHAT WAS THAT?! THEY SPLIT MY SHIELD FROM *THAT* DISTANCE ?!

OLOV'S DOWN!!

BYUM

BAM BABA-BAM

RUN THROUGH ALL YOUR BOLTS IF YOU MUST!!

DON'T WAIT! SHOOT AS SOON AS YOU'VE LOADED!

BABAM

BAM

BAM

BAM

AAGH YAHH

TAKE OUT AS MANY AS YOU CAN BEFORE THEY DISEMBARK!!

THEY'RE SITTING DUCKS IN THE WATER!!

DIE!!

SHKK

A BOY...?

SWISH

KNOCK

SHP

?!

LITTLE DEVIL!!

AAGH

SNATCH

HUH?

?

DID THEY RUN OUT OF BOLTS?

THE ATTACK'S OVER...

NOW'S OUR CHANCE!!

PREPARE TO DISEM-BARK!!

...

HAH.

BSHOK

AH, SHIT!!

!!

CAPTAIN!!

HOP

RAHHH

AVENGE THE CAPTAIN!!

KILL THAT BOY!!

HOW COULD HE KILL THE CAPTAIN?!

BAM

BABAM

DAMN IT!

HE'S JUST A *KID*!!

KABLOOSH

RAAHHH
DSHH
RAHHH
ROLL OVER THEM, LADS!!

RAAH-H

RAISE SOME HELL!!

THEY'VE GOT THEIR HANDS FULL DEFENDING THE GATE, SO THEY WON'T BE COMING HERE!!

THEY'RE SORELY OUTNUM-BERED!

BMM

NOT MUCH RESIST-ANCE FROM THESE FOLKS...

GYAAA

THUK

HRM.

RRGH

CHECK.

HATCH-ET.

AAGHH

THOK

RAHHH

BRIL-LIANT WORK, CHIEF.

OOOOOH

CRIK CRAK

BULLS-EYE!!

CLAP CLAP CLAP

RAAHHHH

UH-OH, LOOKS LIKE THE MAIN FORCE IS ON THE WAY.

AND THEY'RE JUST GOING TO ABAN-DON THE FRONT GATE?

MAKE IT QUICK, OR WE WON'T HAVE TIME FOR THE FUN STUFF!!

ALL RIGHT. LOOKS LIKE WE'VE GOT OURSELVES A PROPER BATTLE, BOYS.

HEAVE...

...HO!!

VMM

DOOM

DMMM

THEY LEFT TO FIGHT OFF THE SHIPS!!

MERDE! WE CAN'T HOLD THEM!

NO SIGN OF THEM SINCE!!

WHERE DID THE OTHER ARCHERS GO?!

ZDUMM

CRACK

THERE ARE STILL A GOOD TWO HUNDRED OF THEM LEFT!!

DMM

DMM

DMM

DON'T LET UP! CRUSH THEM ALL!!

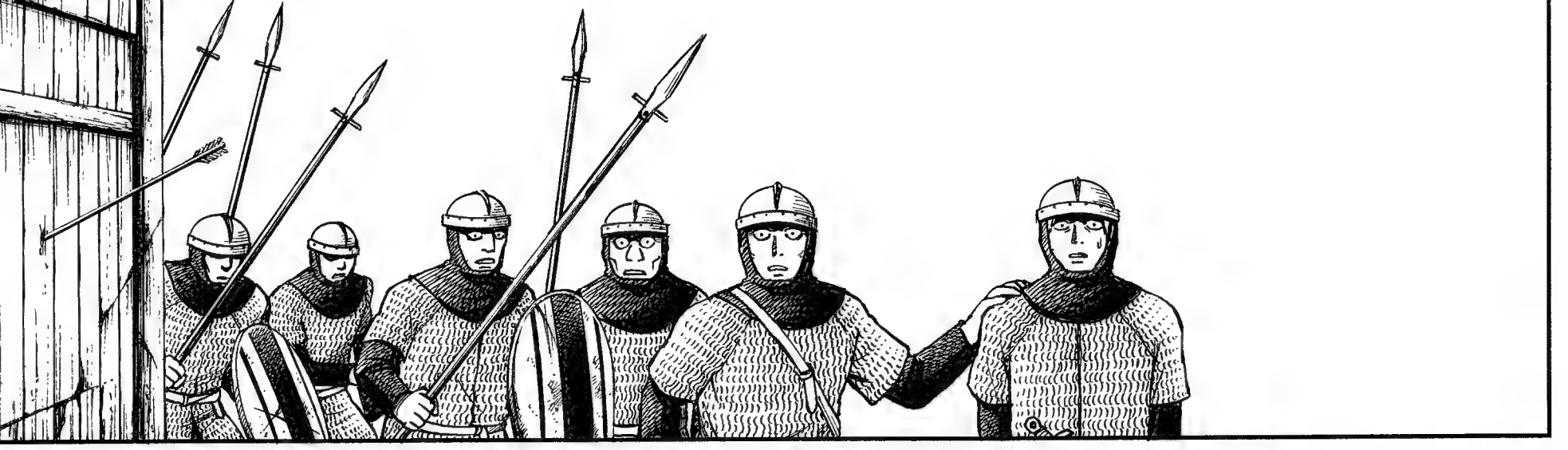
RAAAHHH

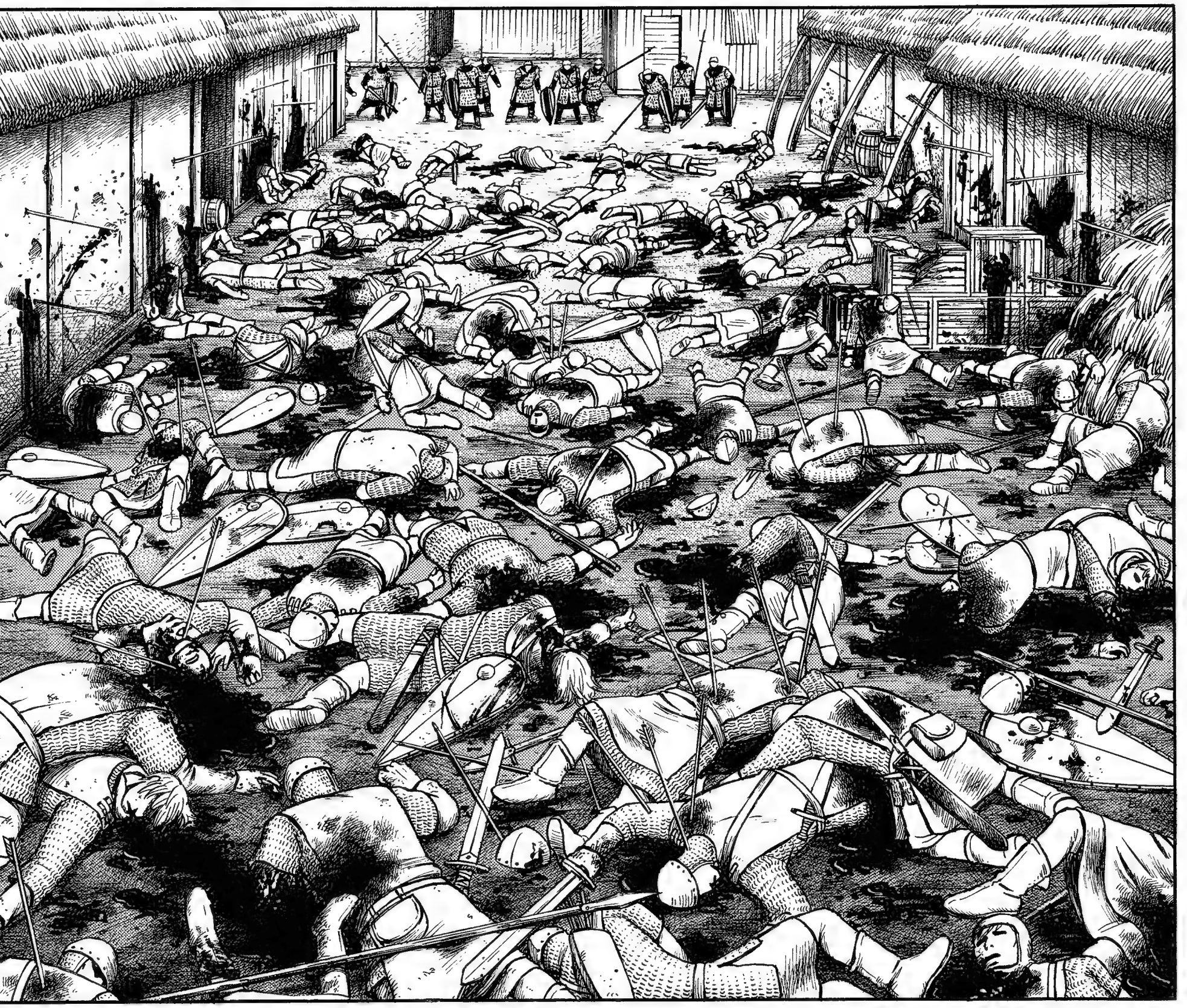
WHY THE HELL DID YOU ST-

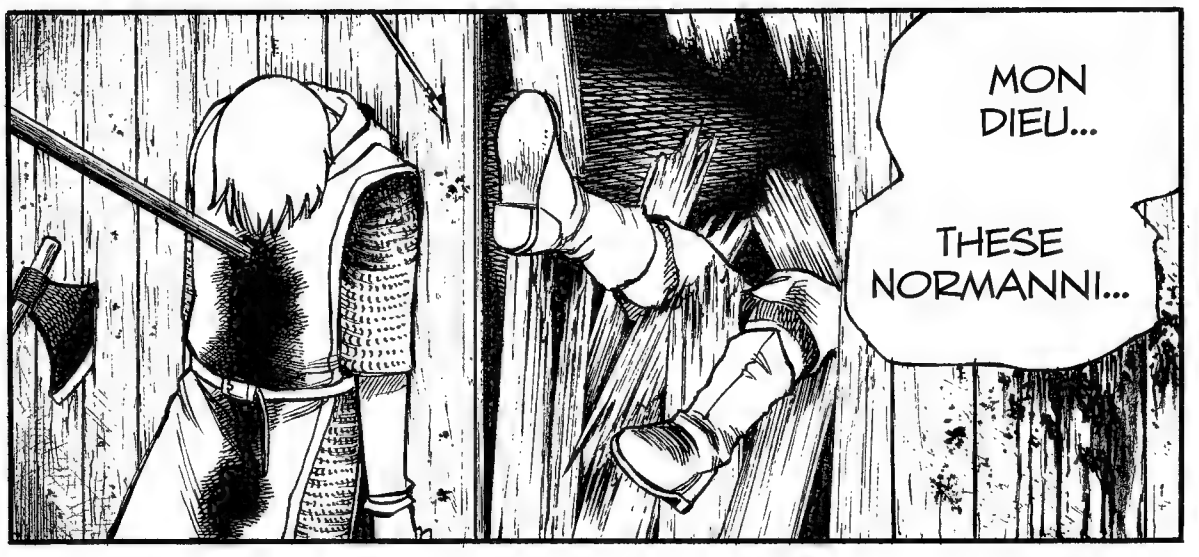
YEOW!

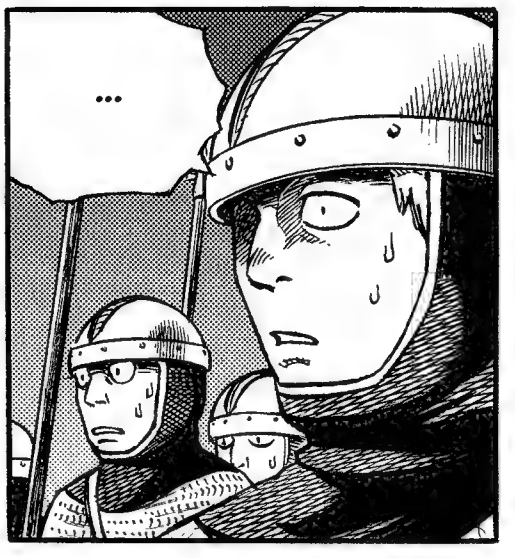
RAHH

THUMP






MON DIEU...
THESE NORMANNI...


...

SEE? WITH THOSE MERCENARIES ON MY SIDE, A FORTRESS THIS MEASLY IS NO CHALLENGE AT ALL!

NGA HA HA HA HA!

HE BURST ONTO THE RAMPARTS WAVING TWO KNIVES.

HRMM...

THE DEFENDING COMMANDER DIED IN THE BATTLE.

OUR CAPTIVES CLAIM IT WAS THE WORK OF A MERE CHILD.

MY WORD!

YOU MEAN THE ***BOY*** DID HIM IN?

IF WE LET THOSE SAVAGES LEAVE THIS PLACE, THEY MAY ***RETURN*** ONE DAY...

...AS ENEMIES OF THE FRANKISH NOBILITY... OR EVEN HIS HIGHNESS HIMSELF...

THE NORMANNI ARE A DEADLY BUNCH...

IF EVEN A BOY CAN DO THIS...

...

THEY TRAVELED OVER THE MOUNTAINS TO GET HERE.

THEY'LL NEED TO COVER THE SAME GROUND CARRYING THEIR SHIPS ON THE WAY BACK. THAT'S WHERE WE STRIKE.

WHAT SHALL WE DO ABOUT THE NORMANNI?

HMM...

AND THE ENTIRETY OF THE HAUL FALLS INTO MY HANDS!

I'M SUCH A *GENIUS!!*

BWA HA HA HA HA HA

GEH HEH HEH

NOT ONLY THAT, THEY'LL BE SLOWER, WEIGHED DOWN WITH THEIR BATTLE RICHES.

A SAILOR ON LAND IS AS HELPLESS AS A BABE.

SPEAK.

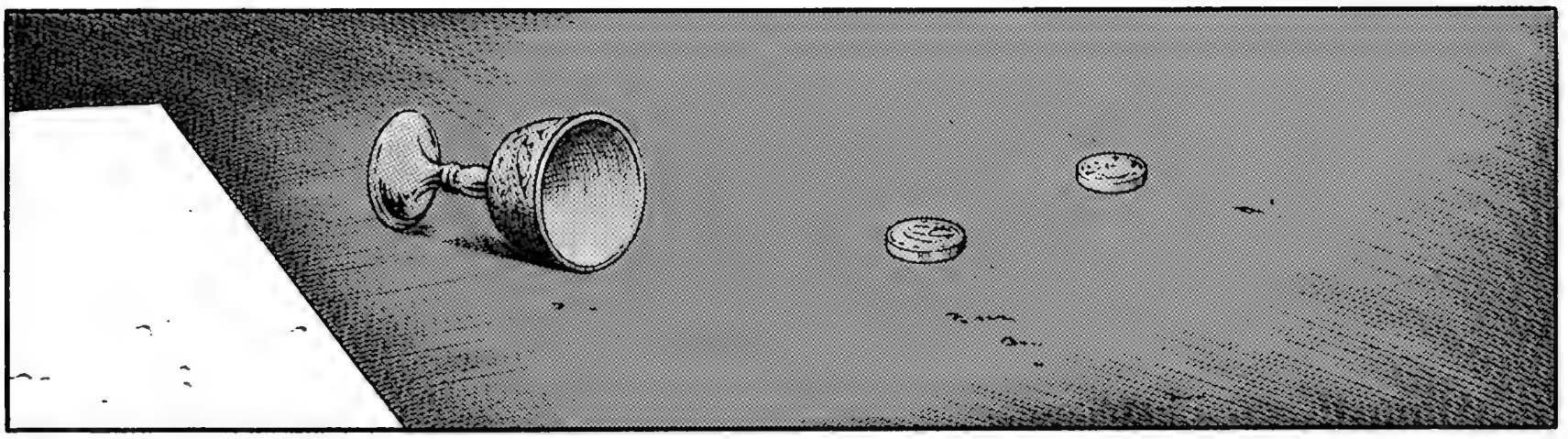
TH...THE TREASURY...

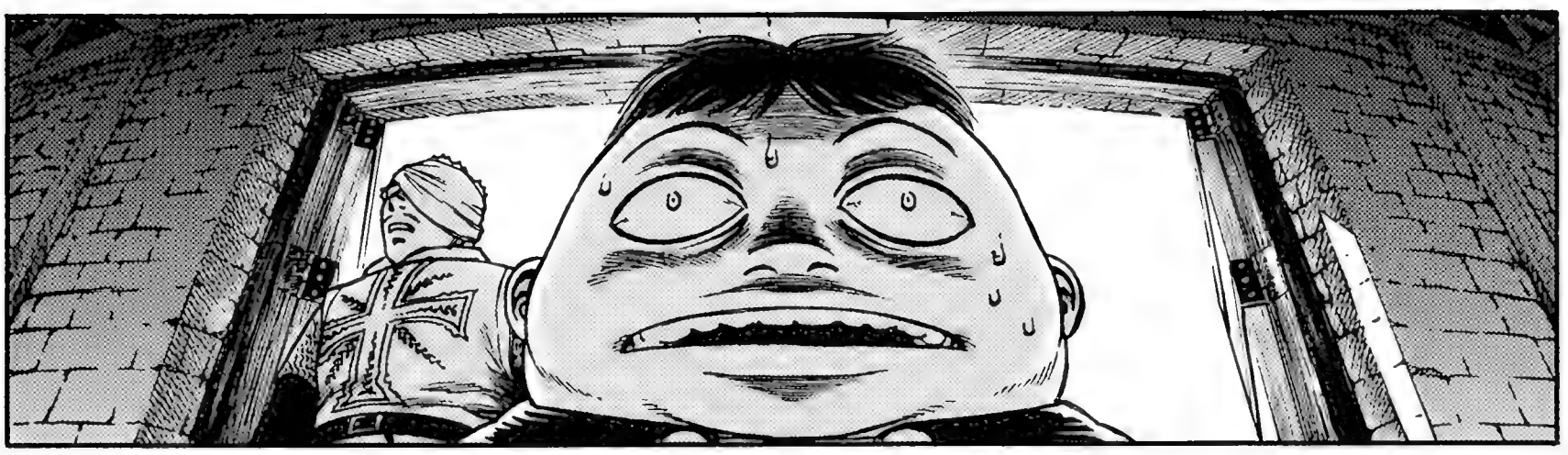
REPORTING TO GENERAL JABBATHE, SIR!!

STILL...

...I HAVEN'T SEEN HIDE NOR HAIR OF THE NORMANNI FOR SOME TIME...

TEK-TEK





GONE...
M—
MY... TREASURE...

SQUEAK

THEY'VE TAKEN EVERY SINGLE THING OF VALUE IN THE VILLAGE.

THE WEALTHIER HOUSES AND EVEN THE CHURCH WERE RANSACKED AS WELL.

WHA–

BUT–

THAT–

ATTEN-TION, LEADER OF THE FRANKS !!

I'LL BE DAMNED...

IT TOOK THEM BARELY A FEW MINUTES...

DASH

...WHILE WE HUMBLY ACCEPT THE TREASURE! I TRUST YOU HAVE NO COMPLAINTS?
IN THE INTEREST OF A FAIR SPLIT, WE GRANT YOU THE VICTORY...

WHHYYYY, YOOOuuu...

!!

AFTER ALL, YOU ARE NOW THE PROUD OWNER OF YOUR VERY OWN FORTRESS.

ALL IN ALL, I THINK IT QUITE A REASON-ABLE COM-PROMISE ON OUR PART.

THEY'VE SMASHED ALL OF THE FORTRESS'S SHIPS ALREADY...

THEY'RE GOING DOWN THE FALLS. SEND THE SHIPS!

HOLD!

B-BUT, SIR...

PIRATES!!

MISERS!!

BEASTS!!

SWINDLERS!!

YOKELS!!

SORRY, MY FRANK-ISH IS RUSTY.

WHAT'S THAT?

FILTHY BARBARIANS !!

IN THAT CASE, SEND OUR FASTEST HORSE TO OUR SHIPS BELOW THE FALLS!!

AYE, SIR!

THOR-FINN HAS YET TO RETURN, ASKE-LADD.

STOW THE TREASURE IN THE BILGE, IT'S TIME TO LEAVE.

BUT ENOUGH FUN.

MORE TREASURE FOR THE REST OF US.

HE'S BOUND TO BE DEAD.

NOT A SUR-PRISE.

SUCH A SHAME.

ONE TWO THREE

YOU DON'T SAY?

KAK

!

KSHUNK

AYE.

LET'S GET MOVING, THEN.

FSHH

SPLA ASH

GOTTA SAY, THE KID'S TOUGH.

YOU HURT?

THAT'S FRIGID WATER TO SWIM THROUGH.

ASKELADD.

HUFF

HUFF

HUFF

THORFINN! YOU'RE ALIVE?

OHH!

SO YOU *DID* GET HIM.

THAT WAS THEIR COM-MANDER.

PHEWWW...

SFF...

HUFF

HUFF

GLARE

YOU CAN'T BACK OUT NOW.

WE HAD A DEAL.

I, THORFINN, SON OF THORS, WARRIOR OF ICE-LAND...

UPON MY FATHER'S BLADE, DO SEEK A DUEL WITH ASKELADD.

TO AVENGE MY FATHER'S DEATH.

I, ASKELADD, SON OF OLAF...

UPON THE NAME OF MY ANCESTOR ARTORIUS, ACCEPT THORFINN'S CHALLENGE.

HYUW

PYEW

SHAKK

WHA-?!

BUT.

MAN OARS, YOU UGLY SHITS!!

NOT THIS INSTANT! RIGHT NOW, WE'VE GOT TO FLY!

BAM

BABAM

QUICK, BEFORE THEY CLOSE OFF THE RIVER!!

FSHH

I AIN'T S-S-S-SC-SCA...

...*SCARED* OF NO D-DRAGONS !!

B-BUT YOU SAW DEM TERRIBLE FANGS.

GRAWW, IT SCREECHED!

AND THE WAY IT HOWLED TO THE MOON.

WE'VE TRESPASSED ONNA DRAGON'S HAUNT.

WH-WHADDLE WE DO?

GRAWK...

FLAP FLAP

GRRRR

YAAGH !!

FLINCH

DRMMM

C-C- COWARDS !!

IT'S ONLY A CROW!!

FLAP FLAP

DO YOUR WORST, YA HIDEOUS BRUTE!!

S-STOP! IT'LL HEAR YA!!

I ALWAYS WANNED TO CHOP OFF A DRAGON'S HEAD!!

BRING ON ALL THE DRAGONS, I SAY!!

GR RGGG

DRAGONNNN!!
GRAWRRR
AAAAAAHHHH
DSH
ZSHAA
AIEEEE!!
GOD SAVE US!!

HA HA HA HA !!

FARE-WELL, LAND OF THE FRANKS!!

...A NORTHERN EUROPEAN PEOPLE TERRORIZED THE CIVILIZED WORLD IN THEIR DRAGON-HEADED SHIPS.

FOR ROUGHLY THREE HUNDRED YEARS, STARTING IN THE EIGHTH CENTURY A.D....

FROM WESTERN EUROPE TO RUSSIA, NORTH AFRICA, GREECE, TURKEY, EVEN THE MIDDLE EAST...

...THEY APPEARED FAR AND WIDE WITHOUT WARNING, PILLAGING AND SLAUGHTERING, ONLY TO LEAVE JUST AS SUDDENLY.

FSHH

IN ENGLAND, THEY WERE THE DANES; TO THE BYZANTINE EMPIRE, THE RUS OR ROS.

IN OLD FRANKISH, THEY WERE THE NORMANNI.

BUT IN LATER YEARS, THEY WOULD SIMPLY BE KNOWN AS VIKINGS.

CHAPTER 1 - END

BAA

BAA

THERE, THERE.

BAAA

BAAAA

OI!

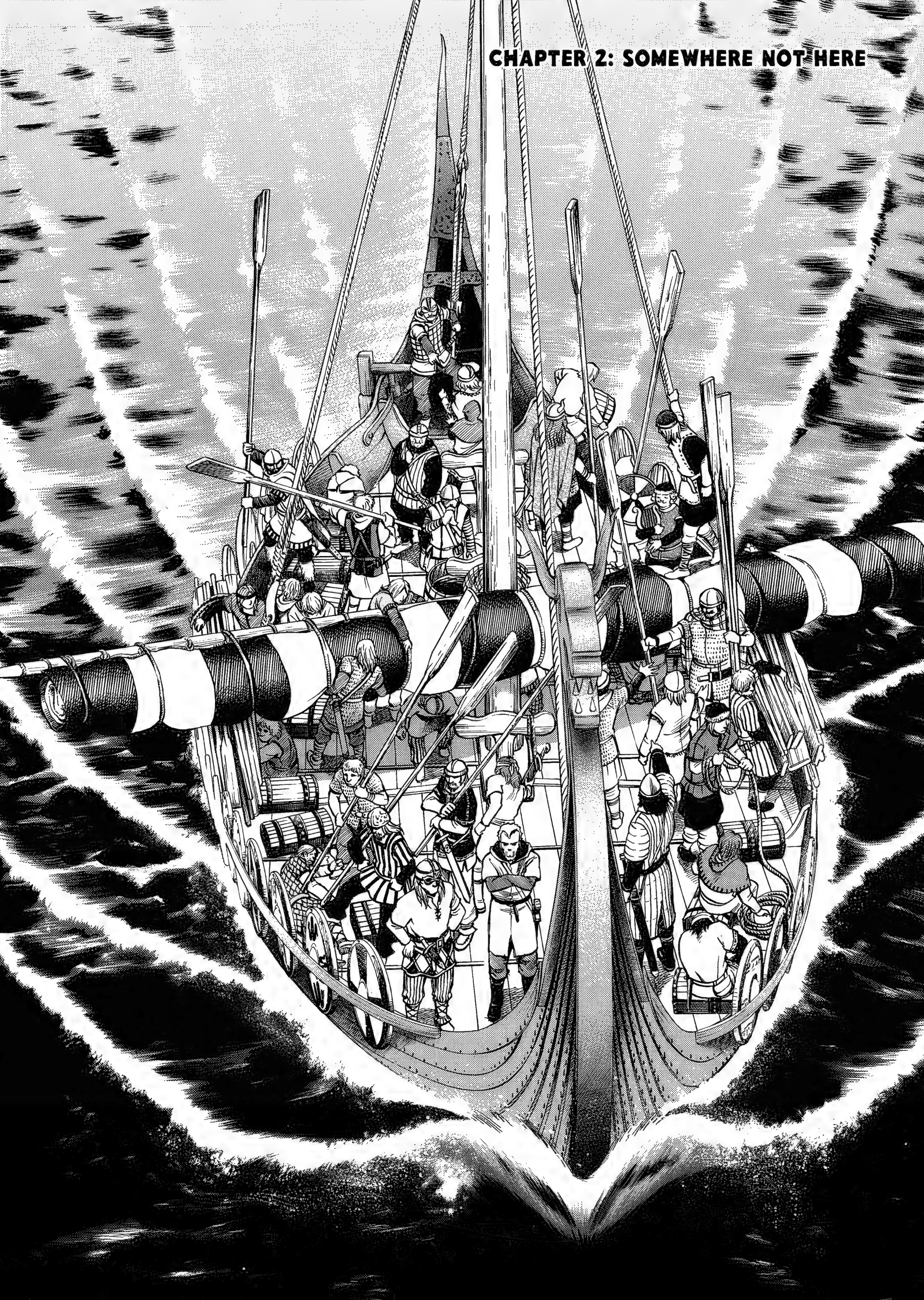
LOOK, WAR-SHIPS!

HANG ON! DON'T PANIC!

LOOK, THOSE ARE ASKELADD'S SHIPS.

WE OUGHT TO TELL GORM...

CHAPTER 2: SOMEWHERE NOT HERE



THERE'S THE VILLAGE.

LOOKS LIKE WE MANAGED TO SURVIVE ANOTHER YEAR.

WE'RE GONNA EAT OUR FILL TONIGHT, BOYS!

LOOK AT THE SHEEP.

IT'S NEARLY WINTER, AND THEY'VE STILL GOT THEM OUT GRAZING.

GAHAHAHA

GOT TO FATTEN THE LIVE-STOCK WHILE YOU CAN.

THAT'S UNCLE GORM FOR YOU. ALWAYS THE MISER.

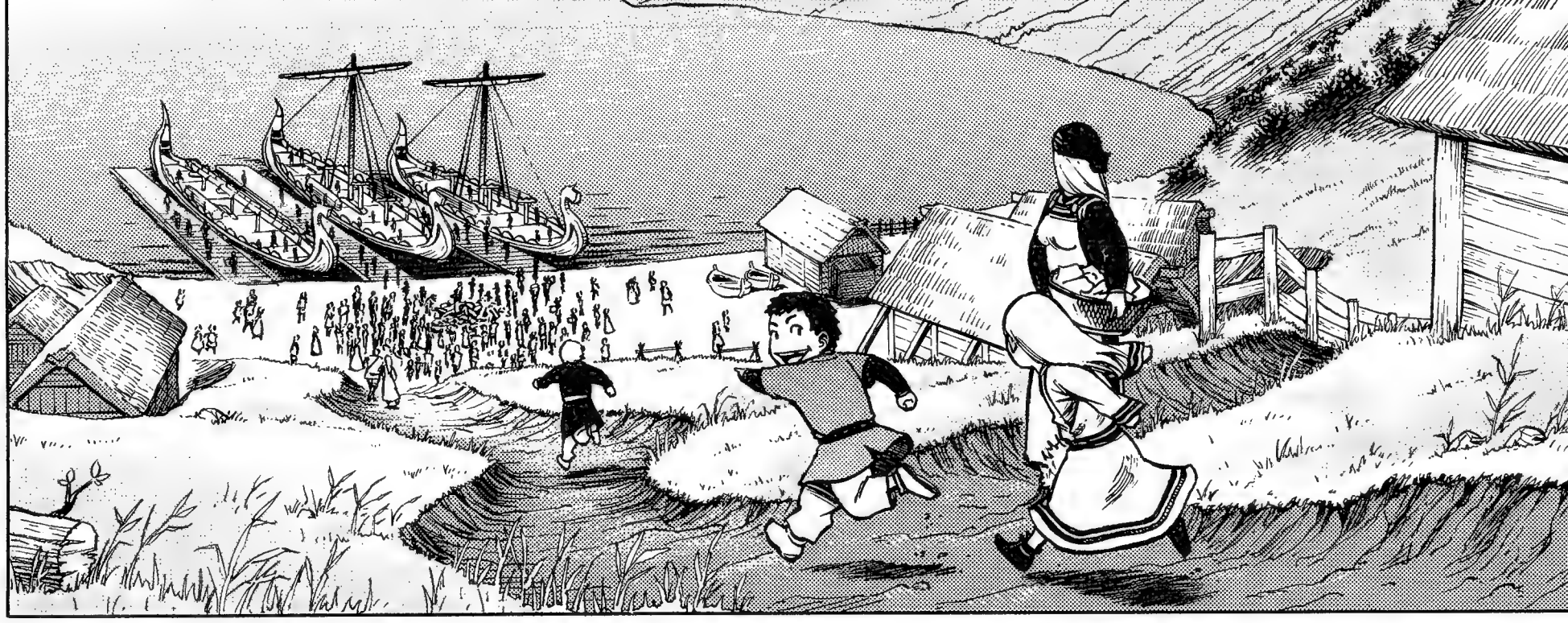
...

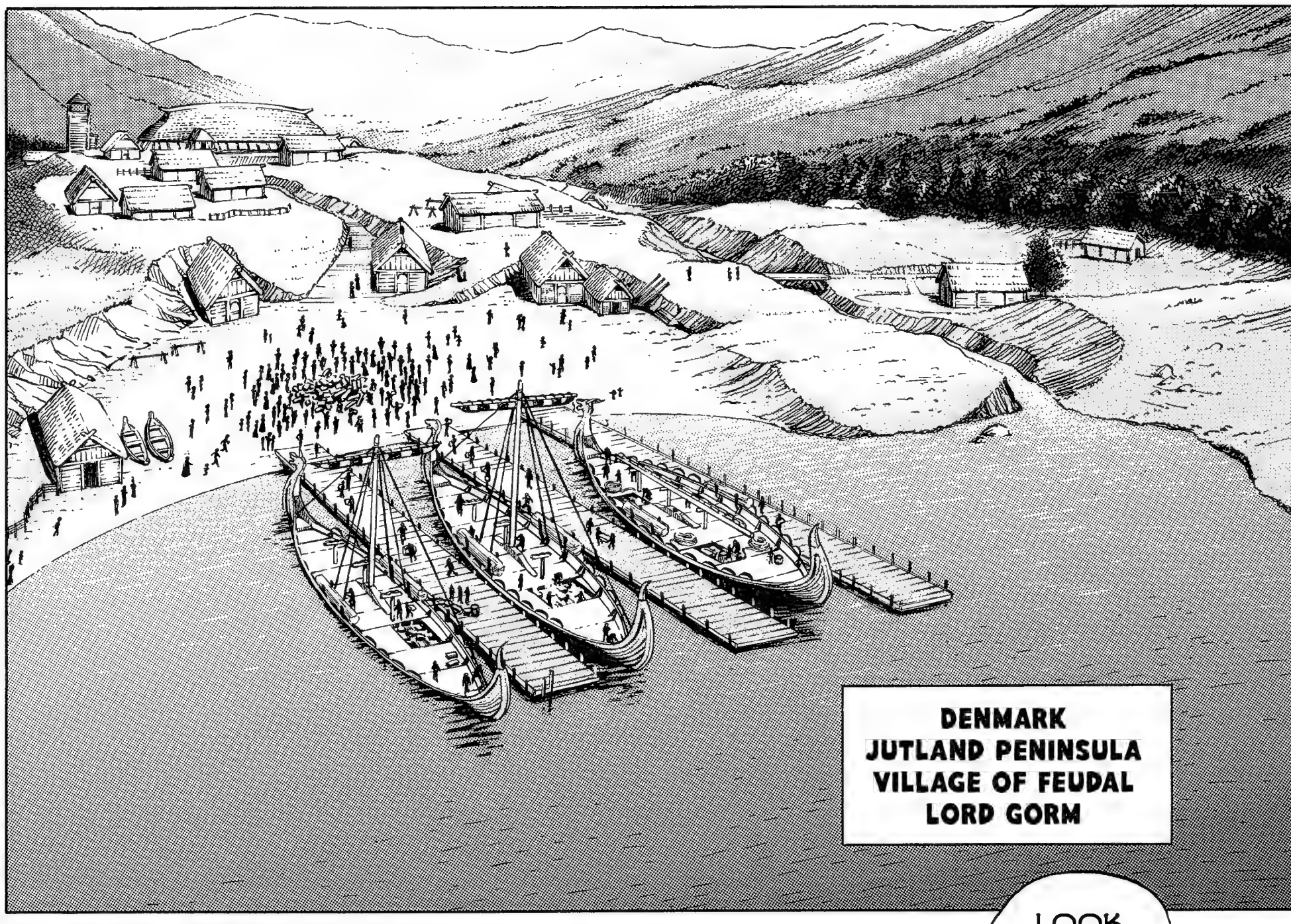
SHK SHK SHK

YAHOOO!!

WELL DONE ON ANOTHER YEAR OF SERVICE, LADS!!

ENJOY YOUR WINTER!!




DENMARK
JUTLAND PENINSULA
VILLAGE OF FEUDAL
LORD GORM

MUR-MUR
THAT ASKE-LADD KNOWS HIS WORK.
MUR-MUR
THEY MADE A *KILLING* DOWN IN FRANKISH LAND.
MY WORD!
OOH!
LOOK AT ALL THE TREA-SURE!

HA HA HA HA

I CAN FEEL MY BLOOD BOILING ALREADY!

THREE DAYS AND YOU'D BE OFF TO VALHALLA.

WHEN I GO RAIDING, ASKELADD'S SHIP IS THE ONLY ONE FOR ME!

AYE.

STILL, I'D SURE LOVE TO SEE SOME FOREIGN LANDS, EH?

I HEAR A FEW MORE DROPPED DEAD ON THIS VOYAGE.

REALLY ?! HOT DAMN!

THINK THEY'LL RECRUIT FROM THE VILLAGE TO FILL THOSE SPOTS?

OH, DON'T BE LIKE THAT, MA...

I'M A MAN, I CAN'T HELP IT!

HA HA...

DON'T SAY SUCH THINGS, FOOLISH BOY!

IF YOU UP AND LEAVE, WHO WILL BE THE MAN OF THE HOUSE?!

...

I WAS BORN TO SAIL ON A RAIDING SHIP!

NO MAN EVER MADE A NAME FOR HIMSELF TENDING PIGS.

READY, SET...
ASKELAAADD!
WELCOME BACK!
EEK!
EEK! ♪
OOK!
EEEEEK!!
I WANT A RING!
JANGLE
HELLO THERE, PRETTY GIRLS!
NOW WHO WANTS SOME NECK-LACES?
THIS IS A SERIOUS TOPIC, ASKE-LADD!
PAY ATTEN-TION!
I LOVE IT!
EEK! EEK!
AHH, UNCLE, OUR WOMEN ARE SO LACKING IN MODESTY AND DIS-CRETION.

THE VALUE OF PIGS ROSE THIS YEAR, SO IF THEY EAT PORK, THAT'S AN EXTRA TWENTY-FOUR AND A QUARTER PER DAY.

BEER WOULD BE SEPARATE.

...ONE AND A QUARTER PIECES. TIMES NINETY-SEVEN MEN, THAT'S 121 AND A QUARTER PER DAY.

I'LL START AGAIN.

IF THE FOOD ONE OF YOUR MEN EATS IN A DAY IS CONVERTED TO SILVER, THAT MAKES...

WE'RE STAYING UNTIL THE SPRING.

GIVE MY MEN ALL THE FOOD AND MEAD THEY WANT. YOU'LL HAVE YOUR SILVER.

ADD IN THE COST OF LODGINGS AND FIREWOOD, AND FOR A SINGLE MONTH, YOU'RE LOOKING AT...

UNCLE ...

CLINK

DON'T WORRY ABOUT THE MONEY. WE HAD AN EXCELLENT HAUL.

WE'RE GOING TO CEL-EBRATE, GIRL.

WE STILL HAVE THAT FINE GERMAN WINE, DON'T WE? BRING THAT OUT.

THAT'S ALL I WANTED TO HEAR, ASKE-LADD.

GRIN

DRINK YOUR FILL.

UNCLE ...

DO YOU *REALLY* LOVE GOLD THAT MUCH?

YO, HO! ONE, TWO, THREE...

...

MONEY IS A WONDERFUL THING... IT BRIGHTENS THE HEART JUST TO GAZE UPON IT.

WHO *DOESN'T*?

AH!

I TOLD YOU TO BRING ME MY WINE!

HORDALAND! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

SEVEN, EIGHT, NINE...

HMM?

BAH!

...YES, SIR...

...

I BOUGHT HER EARLIER THIS YEAR.

APPARENTLY FROM THE BLOODLINE OF SOME LORD IN THAT AREA.

THEY LOST A WAR, AND THE FAMILY WENT INTO RUIN OR SOME SUCH.

MM?

YES.

STRANGE NAME THAT SLAVE'S GOT.

HORDA-LAND. LIKE THE PLACE IN NORWAY?

WHISPER...

ZSHH

SHE COST SOLID COIN FOR THOSE PRETTY LOOKS...

...BUT SHE'S A DREADFUL SLAVE. STILL GOT THE NOBLE AIRS.

SHSH

I'VE GOT A DUEL SCHEDULED JUST BEFORE SUPPER...

...COULD I ASK YOU TO WITNESS FOR ME?

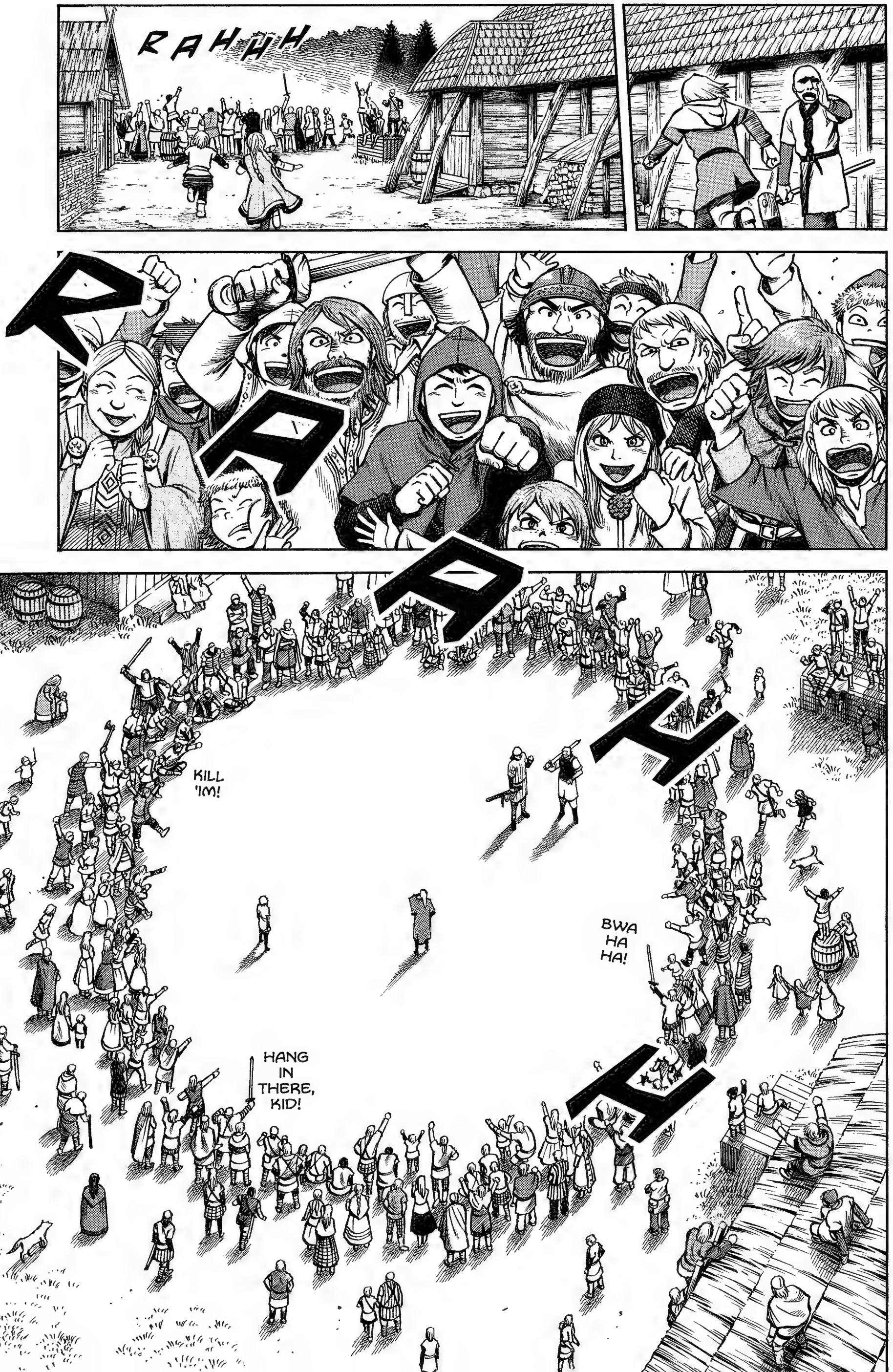
BY THE WAY...

A DUEL?

ALSO, UNCLE...

IT'S NOT THE SLAVE'S FAULT THAT SHE'S BEEN USELESS. IT'S YOUR POOR HANDLING.

THERE'S A TRICK TO MANIPULAT-ING EVERY HUMAN BEING.


RAHHH
RAGE
KILL 'IM!
HANG IN THERE, KID!
BWA HA HA!

RAAAHHH

HOW TIRE-SOME.

AHEM! WE GATHER HERE...

...IN THE NAME OF ALMIGHTY ODIN...

...TO OBSERVE THIS DUEL BETWEEN THORFINN AND ASKE-LADD.

YOU ARE FREE TO YOUR CHOICE OF ARMS.

THE DUEL WILL BE CONCLUDED BY RETREAT, INCAPACI-TATION OR DEATH.

RAHHHH

MAYBE I STAND A BETTER CHANCE THAN I THOUGHT!

THAT LITTLE KID'S ONE OF AS-KELADD'S BAND?!

ARE YOU *KIDDIN'* ME?

RAAHHH

...THOR-FINN'S DESIRE TO AVENGE HIS FATHER'S DEATH.

THE GROUNDS FOR THIS DUEL BEING...

NO WAY!

ASKE-LADD'S STRONGER, *AND* HE HAS MORE MONEY.

IS IT JUST ME, OR IS HE KINDA CUTE?

DUNNO ?
...

...?

IF HE'S AVENGING HIS FATHER, WHY DOES HE WORK FOR ASKE-LADD?

NO.

NONE FROM ME.

ARE THERE ANY OBJECT-IONS FROM EITHER PARTY?

KILL, KILL!

BEGIN!

AND NOW...

GOOD LUCK, KID!

FIGHT!

RAAHHH

YOU'RE GROW-ING LIKE A WEED, BOY.

HOW OLD ARE YOU NOW?

BACK THEN, YOU WERE BARELY UP TO HERE.

SCRAPE...

HO!!

SHWAA

HE'S FAST!

KAKANG

THE BOY'S GONE FIRST!

HE'S IN CLOSE!

WHOOSH

GSH GLINK CLAK

...WITH JUST... ...A LIT-TLE...

...AN OLD MAN...

CHKK

YOU CAN'T ...

...HU-MOR ...

ANG

KCH

...SMALL TALK FIRST?!

HASZZ

TFK TAK

OOH!

OOOHH

HE'S ON HIS FEET!

NOT A SINGLE INJURY!

...I...

I NEVER SEEN A MAN THROW SOMEONE SO FAR WITH A SINGLE SWING...

THORFINN JUMPED BACK, YOU IDIOT.

IF HE'D STOOD HIS GROUND, THOSE SHORT BLADES WOULD'VE SNAPPED.

RAHHH

CRIK

WHEW.

...

SO, UM... WHY DID HE HIRE THAT KID, IF HE'S SO DANGER-OUS?

HE KNOWS FULL WELL THAT THE SHORT SWORDS GIVE HIM THE ADVANTAGE AT CLOSE QUARTERS.

THE BOY'S GROWN STRONG. SEE HOW CALM HE IS.

RAAAHH

LET'S SEE SOME BLOOD!

ASKELADD!

THATTABOY!

SHAAA

FFF!...

...

CLA

ANG

INGGG...

SWISH

BRIL-
LIANT!!

?

SHK...

WHY'D HE PULL BACK? THAT WAS HIS CHANCE!

SHIKK

SHIVER

...

KAAAHHH

ERR, UM... OH, DAMN...

ABOUT YOUR OLD MAN, THORFINN...

THORS!

THORK ...?

WHAT WAS HIS NAME? THO, THOOOO...

MY MEMORY ISN'T WHAT IT USED TO BE, SADLY.

OF COURSE.

THORS!! RIGHT, THAT WAS IT.

...BUT I'VE KILLED MORE THAN MY SHARE OF MEN, YOU KNOW?

AND I JUST CAN'T REMEM-BER YOUR FATHER FOR THE LIFE OF ME.

LOOK...

I REALLY HATE TO BRING THIS UP DURING YOUR LONG-AWAITED BID FOR *VENGEANCE* AND ALL...

I'M JUST TRYING TO MAKE SURE THIS ISN'T ALL JUST SOME DREADFUL *MISUNDER-STANDING*, THAT'S ALL.

HOW DID I KILL HIM?

DID I *REALLY* KILL THIS... THORILL FELLOW?

...MY FATHER ...

...WOULD NEVER HAVE FALLEN TO THE *LIKES OF YOU!!*

IF YOU'D FOUGHT FAIR AND SQUARE ...

SQUEEZ

YOU FILTHY BAS-TARD...

IF YOU...

...HADN'T TAKEN ME...

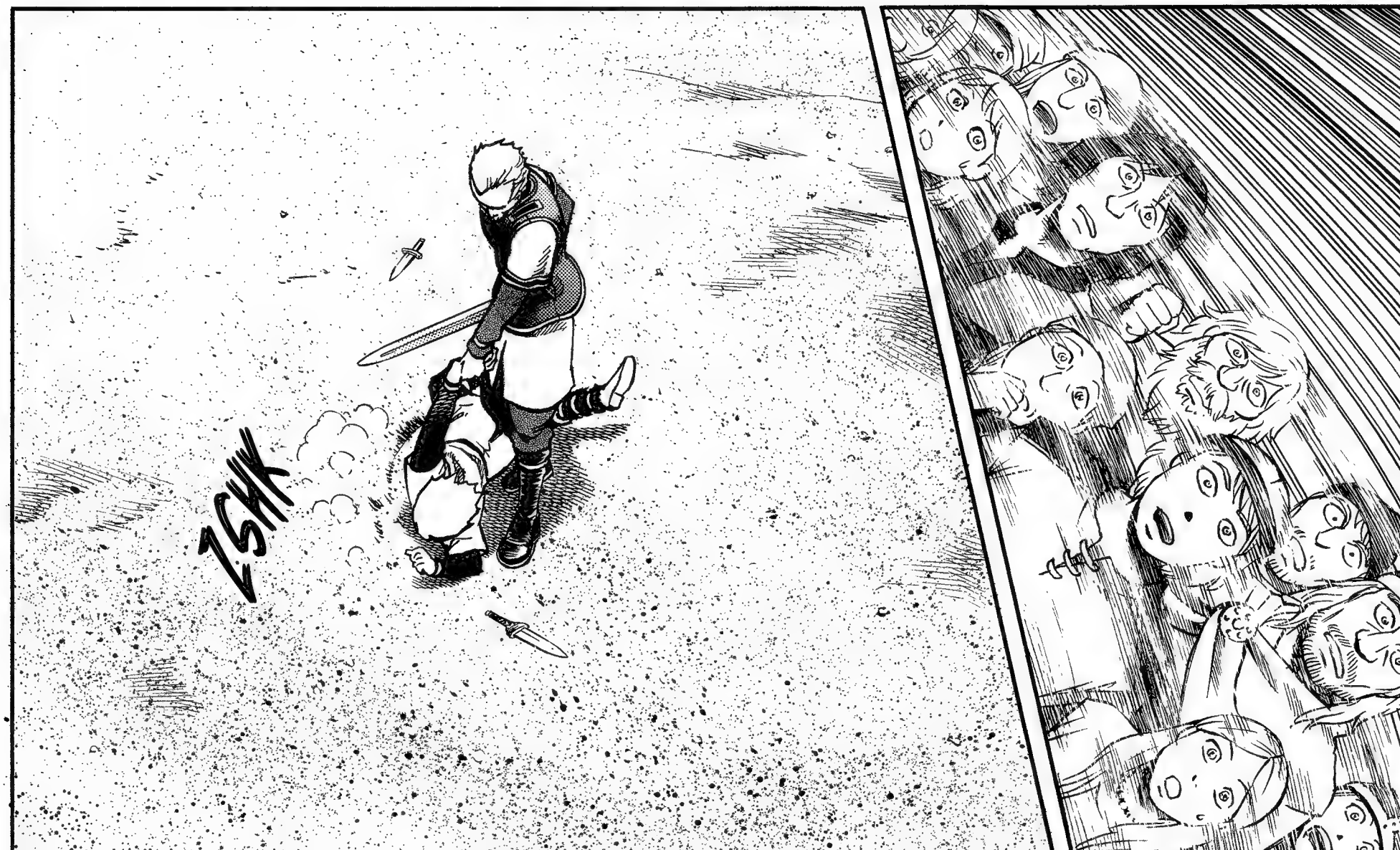
HE WAS THE FOOL WHO GAVE UP HIS LIFE IN EXCHANGE FOR HIS BOY'S.

OHHH, YES! NOW IT'S COMING BACK.

...HOS-TAGE...

TOO BAD.

RAHHH


ZSHK

?

...

WHAT... DID HE JUST DO?

CAN'T LOSE CONTROL NOW, CAN WE?

YOU'VE GOT A *LOT* TO LEARN, BOY.

HRRG

CRIK...

HRG...

AAH...

CRAKK

YOU GOT IT.

POP HIS SHOULDER BACK IN, BJORN.

WHEW.

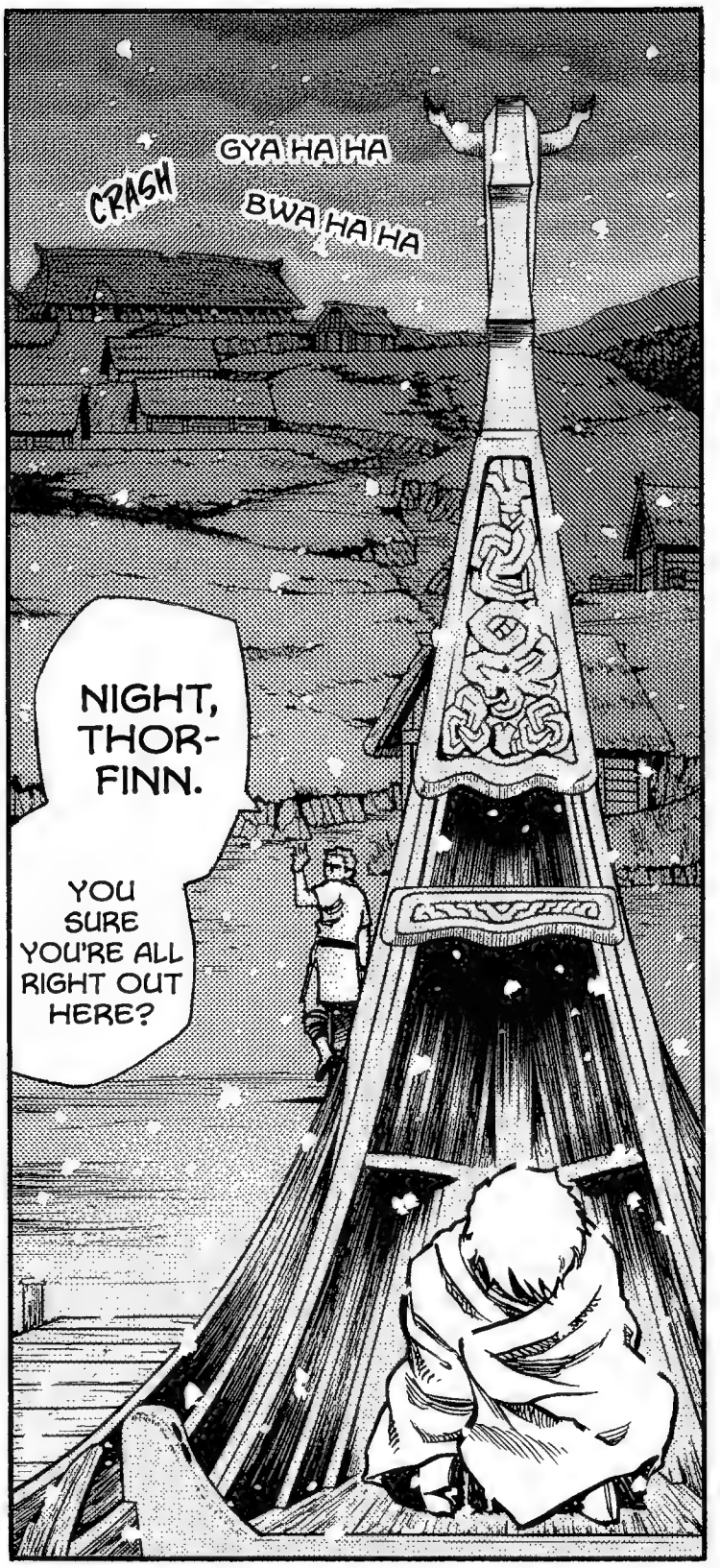
FLUP...

UNCLE.

I'LL TAKE A NICE, FRAGRANT MUTTON BREAST, IF YOU DON'T MIND.

I'VE WORKED UP AN APPETITE.

SKOAL!!


CRASH
GYA HA HA
BWA HA HA
NIGHT, THOR-FINN.
YOU SURE YOU'RE ALL RIGHT OUT HERE?

HA HA HA HA HA HA

CRAASH

GA HA HA!

AH, AS USUAL, THEN.

HE ALWAYS SULKS AFTER HE LOSES.

NAH, I LUCKED OUT.

THOR-FINN DOESN'T WANT TO CHANGE SHIFTS.

AIN'T YOU STANDIN' GUARD ON THE SHIPS?

OI!

HA HA HA HA

IT USED TO BE HIS FATHER'S SHIP, AFTER ALL.

LET HIM STAY. HE LIKES IT BETTER OUT THERE.

NOT BAD, NOT BAD.

MMM.

SMACK SMACK

HN

GAA

HOW DO YOU DO THAT THROW?!

GEE, IT SURE WAS SOME-THIN'!!

HERE.

HEY, ASKE-LADD !!

YOUR FIGHT TODAY WAS *INCRED-IBLE!*

NOT TO WORRY.

AAA

M

HE'D RATHER DIE THAN DO SOME-THING LIKE THAT.

WHAT IF HE AMBUSHES YOU IN YOUR SLEEP OR SOME-THING?

UGH, SPARE ME.

BUT BOSS...

WHY DO YOU KEEP THAT KID AROUND? ISN'T IT DANGER-OUS?

HE'S BOUND BY PRIDE AND HIS OWN PAST.

THORFINN WON'T BE SATISFIED UNLESS HE WINS AN HONEST, MAN-TO-MAN DUEL.

HOW COME?

HOW COME? WELL, HE'S A WARRIOR, FOR ONE THING.

DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT THAT PLATTER OF FOOD *COSTS?!* DO YOU?!

NOT YOU AGAIN, HORDA-LAND!

GRAAGH

HUH... PRIDE?

HEH HEH.

...BUT IF I HAD TO LIVE WITHOUT PRIDE, I RECKON I'D RATHER KILL MYSELF.

I DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT SUCH THINGS...

WHAT A SHAME.

YOUR DAYS AS A LADY ARE LONG PAST, GIRL!

YOU'RE A *SLAVE*, AND YOU'LL LEARN TO ACT LIKE ONE!

JUST LOOK AT HIM!

HEE HEE!

OH, WHAT A SIGHT THIS IS.

I'M NOT LAUGH-ING AT *YOU*, BOY.

HEH HEH HEH

HMPH.

WHAT'S SO FUNNY?

...AND BEATS THE SLAVE HE BOUGHT WITH THAT GOLD AS IF TO CLAIM *HE* IS THE MASTER.

A MAN, SLAVE TO GOLD, HOLDS A WHIP...

EVERY LIVING HUMAN BEING...

...IS A SLAVE TO SOME-THING.

HE JUST DOESN'T SEE IT FOR HIM-SELF.

?

...

SLOSH...

NOD...

FLINCH

HA HA HA!

YOU'RE SULKING. DID YOU LOSE AGAIN, THORFINN?

FATHER...

NYAH!

LOOK AT THE LITTLE CRY-BABY!

RUB

RUB

SHNIF

NOD NOD

DO YOU WANT REVENGE?

ARE YOU ANGRY, SQUIRT?

SNUFFLE

HMMM... WELL, YOU ARE MY SON.

I SUPPOSE IT WON'T DO ANY GOOD TO TELL YOU NOT TO SEEK VENGEANCE...

OH DEAR... HOW SHOULD I PUT THIS...?

YOU'LL HAVE TO FIND OUT FOR YOUR-SELF...

...WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A WARRIOR.

TAP

SHIK

AAH!!

AH...UM... L-LORD GORM TOLD ME...

...TO BRING YOU FOOD...

SHAK SCARF

MUNCH

CHOMP

HEY...

ARE YOU A THRALL, TOO?

GYA HA HA!

CRAASH

BWA HA HA!

I'M A FREE MAN– A WAR-RIOR.

I'M NOT FORCED TO EAT SCRAPS IN THE KITCHEN, LIKE YOU. I EAT HERE BECAUSE I CHOOSE TO.

SLOSH

WHAT?

I MEAN...

...YOU'RE EATING OUT *HERE*...

OH... REALLY?
IT'S STRANGE...
I JUST THOUGHT WE SEEMED SIMILAR...
TSK
I HAVE NOTHING IN COMMON WITH YOU! I WOULDN'T KNOW HOW A SLAVE THINKS!
IF I WERE YOU, I'D KILL GORM AND RUN!
AND I'D KILL ANY MAN WHO FOLLOWED ME!
WHOOSH...
HOW AWFUL ...
I COULDN'T ...KILL...
SHIVER
HAH!
THEN ENJOY LIFE AS A SLAVE.
GLUG
IT'S YOUR CHOICE.

...IF I RAN...

IF I RAN AS FAR AS I COULD...

...ALL THE WAY ACROSS THE SEA... WHAT WOULD I FIND THERE?

WHOOSH

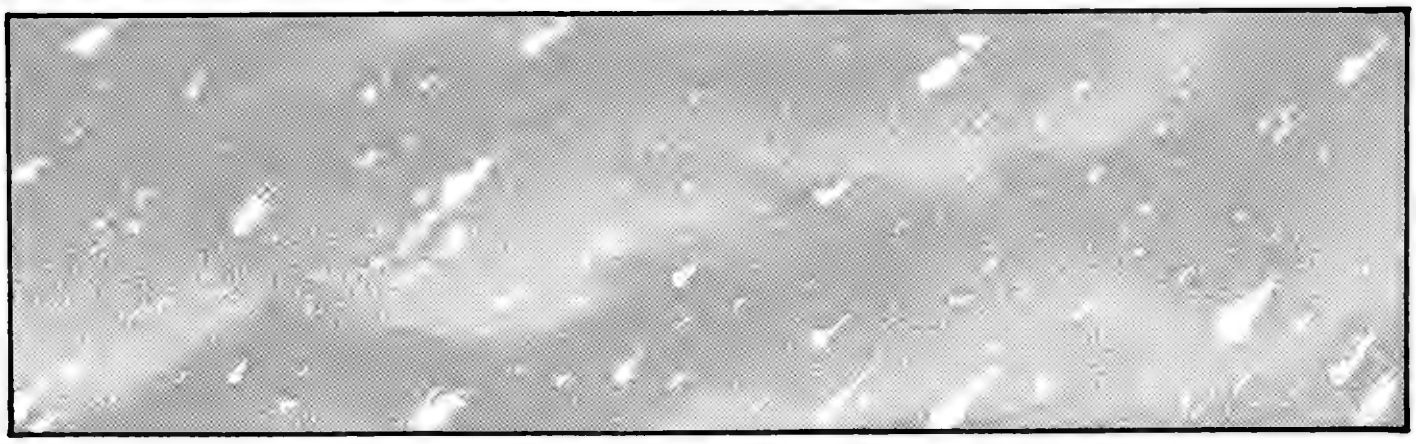
IF THERE WERE A LAND... ACROSS THE HORI-ZON...

A LAND WITHOUT WAR OR SLAVERS...

IF THERE WERE A LAND OF PEACE...

SOME-
WHERE...

...THAT'S
NOT
HERE...



TEN
YEARS
EARLIER

PFFF——…

SHHP…

THEN WE LEFT MARK-LAND...

...AND OUR SHIP CHARTED A COURSE FURTHER SOUTH.

POP…

"THERE'S A LAND FAR RICHER AND MORE FERTILE TO THE SOUTH."

THAT'S WHAT THE WIND WAS TELLING US.

A NEW WORLD, FULL OF RIPE FRUIT AND RIPPLING PLAINS.

AND THAT'S WHEN I FOUND IT.

I BUILT A COTTAGE UPON THIS NEW LAND...

...AND CALLED IT...

...VINLAND.

CHAPTER 2 - END

CRA ASH

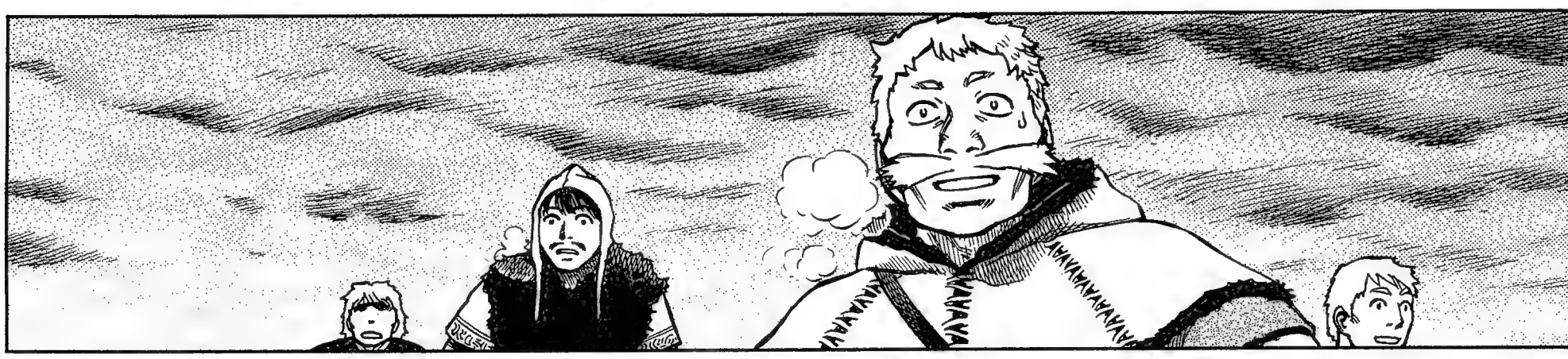
RUMBLE RUMBLE

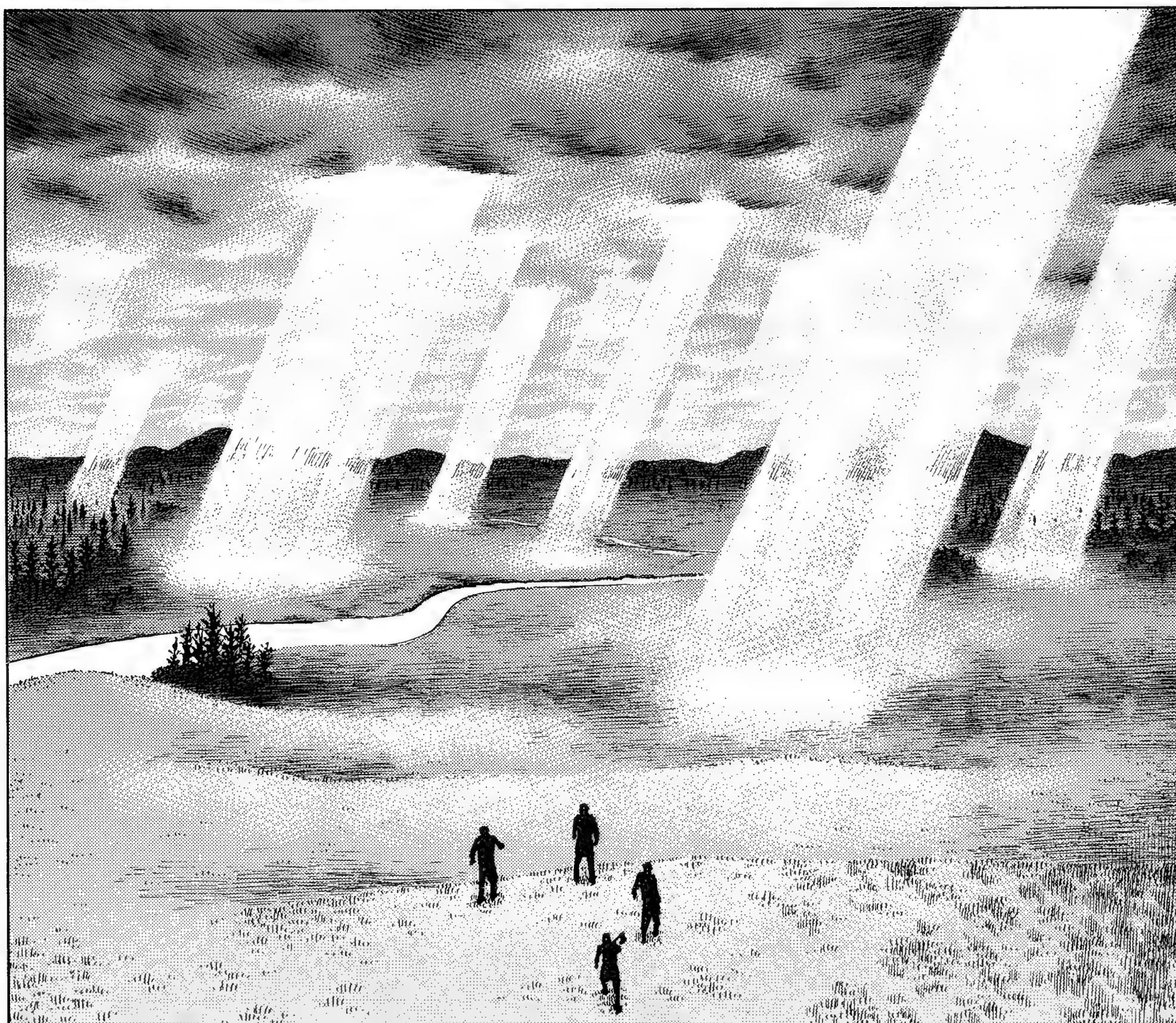
SPLASH

I STOOD UPON THIS NEW LAND...

...AND GAVE IT A NAME.

CHAPTER 3: BEYOND THE EDGE OF THE SEA





PFFFF

FAR ACROSS THE SEA TO THE WEST...

...THERE WAS A NEW LAND TO BE SETTLED.

HOW'S THAT, KIDS? ***NOW*** ARE YOU PROPERLY IMPRESSED...

...WITH THE DARING FEATS OF THE ***GREAT LEIF ERICSON?!***

WHOOOSH

1002 A.D.
ICELAND

THAT'S *AMAZING*, MISTER LEIF!!

WAS IT BIGGER THAN ICE-LAND?

WAS IT WARM?

WERE THERE PEOPLE?

WOWWWW

COOL!

OOH!

WHAT HAP-PENED NEXT?!

I COULDN'T EVEN BEGIN TO MEASURE THE SIZE OF THE PLACE.

YES TO ALL THREE! IT WAS WARMER THAN ICELAND, BRIMMING WITH FORESTS AND WAVING MEADOWS READY FOR SHEEP TO GRAZE UPON.

KAKK KAKK

WE EVEN MET *SKRAELINGS* THERE.

IN FACT, THIS HEADDRESS AND PIPE WERE PERSONAL GIFTS TO ME FROM THEIR CHIEFTAIN.

THE MEN COULD NOT GROW WHISKERS, SO THEY FOUND OURS TO BE MOST FASCINATING.

THEY WERE SHORT OF STATURE WITH BLACK HAIR AND EYES, BEARING STONE SPEARS.

OOOH...

WE COULDN'T UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER, BUT WE BECAME FAST FRIENDS.

YOU SEE, THEY'RE ONLY WORN BY *TRUE WARRIORS.*

OOOH ...

AWE-SOME!

THUMP

WHEW.

PAT PAT

WHOOSH

HA HA HA HA

I WANTED TO LET THEM HEAR LEIF'S STORIES...

I'M SORRY, THORS.

WHAT'S THIS?

THE CHILDREN ARE STILL AWAKE?

AREN'T I?

AND *YOU'RE* A VERY SMART LITTLE BOY, THORFINN.

WILL YOU RIDE ON MY SHIP WHEN YOU GROW UP?

IS THE SMOKE YUMMY?

A TRUE WARRIOR ...

YOU REALLY ARE AMAZING, MISTER.

YOUR STORY DOESN'T MAKE SENSE, MISTER LEIF!

THAT'S A VERY DIFFICULT QUESTION TO AN-SWER...

WHY? WELL...

WHY CAN'T I RIDE WITH YOU *NOW*?!

FATHER SAYS THE SAME THING! WHY DO I HAVE TO GROW UP FIRST?

AND THAT IF YOU KEEP GOING...

...THE SEA JUST DIS-APPEARS INTO NOTHING-NESS...

MY GRAND-PA TOLD ME...

...THAT THE GREAT SERPENT JÖRMUNGAND PROWLS THE SEAS TO THE WEST AND GOBBLES UP EVERY SHIP THAT VEN-TURES TOO CLOSE!

WRIGGLE

NO, NO, NO!

TSK TSK TSK

YOU KIDS HAVE TO LEARN TO USE YOUR HEADS.

BESIDES, YOU'RE NOT EVEN A ***WARRIOR***, MISTER LEIF!

HERE'S THE PROOF! A TRUE WAR-RIOR'S—

AND IT'S THOSE TALL TALES THAT MAKE MY DISCOVERY ALL THE MORE MOMENTOUS, DON'T YOU SEE?

IS THAT REAL?

HEE HEE

YEAH.

HA HA HA

SEE? I KNEW IT.

HEE HEE

?

AND WHAT'S SO FUNNY?

NOT ALL WARRIORS FIGHT ON THE BATTLE-FIELD WITH SWORD IN HAND.

A SAILOR MAKES HIS LIVING BATTLING THE SEA!

BAH! HOW EASILY SWAYED YOU ARE! I'D LIKE TO HAVE A WORD WITH YOUR PARENTS!

RIGHT?

BUT YOU'RE A GOOD BOY, THORFINN. YOU BELIEVE ME, DON'T YOU?

HA HA HA HA

EVERYONE SAYS MISTER LEIF'S JUST A BIG KID WITH WHISKERS.

HE GOES ON SO MANY ADVEN-TURES, HE'S NO GOOD IN A REAL FIGHT!

...IF MY FATHER SAYS YOU'RE A WARRIOR, THEN IT MUST BE TRUE, BUT...

W-WELL ...

I SEE HOW IT IS.

...IS THIS WHAT IT'S COME TO? YOU CAN'T TRUST THE WORD OF AN OLD ADVENTURER WHO'D RATHER FOLLOW HIS WHIMS THAN CHARGE INTO BATTLE?

...

...

BE A GROWN-UP!

NOW HE'S SULKING!

THORS! ARE YOU LISTENING TO THEM HUMILIATE ME?!

OH, GROW UP...

SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT FOR ALL TO HEAR! THEY'LL BELIEVE *YOU*, APPARENTLY!!

BRRR, IT'S SO COLD!

HEE HEE.

BYE-BYE!

AWWW!

I WANNA HEAR MORE STORIES!

I'M NOT SLEEPY!

SURE THING, THORS.

GO ON HOME, KIDS. TIME FOR BED.

WILL YOU WALK THEM HOME, ARI?

BWOOOSH

HUFF!

HUFF!

SHUK

HUFF!

HUFF!

WOOOSH

CLINK...

DSHAAAA...

SO THE PEOPLE ARE FREEZING IN GREEN-LAND...

I SEE...

POP...

I CAN'T AFFORD TO BE OPTIMIS-TIC.

DO YOU SEE ANY HOPE FOR A RETURN TO NORMAL WEATHER, LEIF?

I SUSPECT THERE IS A CONNECTION BETWEEN THIS YEAR'S CHILL AND THE WEAKER CURRENTS BRINGING WARM WATER FROM THE SOUTH.

THE COLD SNAP WILL BE FIERCE THIS YEAR. MUCH OF THE LIVE-STOCK WILL BE LOST.

AYE.

WHOOOSH

...IT'S...

BRRR...

...FREEZ-ING OUT THERE!!

BAAA

BAAA

WE HAVEN'T SUFFERED ANY MAJOR DAMAGE FROM THE COLD YET.

THE LONG-TERM ISSUE IS WHETHER OR NOT IT'LL CONTINUE TO WORSEN AS THE YEARS GO ON...

CREAK

WHOOOSH

HAVAVA

HUFF

WE OUGHT TO KEEP THEM INSIDE TONIGHT.

THEY MIGHT DIE IF LEFT OUT IN THE PEN.

YOU MUST BE TERRIBLY COLD, YLVA.

NO THANKS, LECHER!

COME SIT DOWN AND LET UNCLE LEIF WARM YOU UP.

THANK YOU, YLVA.

BAAA

THESE TWO WERE THE ONLY ONES TAKING CHILL.

GO TO BED, MOTHER. I'LL DO THE REST.

I'M JUST FINE. HELP ME TIE UP THE SHEEP.

YOU'LL CATCH COLD AGAIN!

IT MIGHT NOT BE LONG...

...UNTIL THE IS-LANDS ARE SMOTH-ERED BY A WINTER SO FIERCE, NONE WILL SURVIVE.

MY BROTHER THORVALD IS MAKING PLANS TO LEAVE GREENLAND.

NO, IT'S NOT.

IT'S NOT MUCH EASIER HERE IN ICELAND.

...ISN'T IT FAR?

...

WELL...

I MADE IT THERE AND BACK, DIDN'T I?

SPLA AAASH

WA HA HA HA HA

VINLAND IS JUST BEYOND THE HO-RIZON!!

SPLOSHHH

ONWARD! FAR TO THE WEST!

GRAAHHH

SPLASH

SAVE US!! IT'S TOO HUGE!!

AAAGH!

CAPTAIN THORFINN! *JÖRMUN-GAND'S* AHEAD!!

HMM ?!

GR

AAAH

DON'T WAIT FOR ME, MEN!

ONWARD, WHILE IT'S DISTRACTED! *ONWARD TO VINLAND!!*

AAAH!

OH!

CAPTAIN !!

HMM ?

URGH... I'M CHOK-ING...

GUHH, I'M GONNA DIE...

GWEHK ?!

COME, MONSTER! TAKE THE IRON OF AN ICELANDIC WARRI-

HRRRGH

I'M COLD...

WHAAT? NOOO...

YOU CAN USE MY BED IF YOU WANT. I'M SLEEPING HERE...

...SIS!

GO TO YOUR OWN BED! YOU'RE SQUISH-ING ME!

...

SHH, DON'T SHOUT.

THAT'S NOT FAIR! I ALREADY DID ALL THE WORK WARMING THIS BED UP!

THIS IS WHAT YOU DID LAST TIME, WHEN YOU...

DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT STUFF, THORFINN.

WORRY-ING IS THE GROWN-UPS' JOB.

HMM? YEAH...

THEY'RE STILL TALKING... FATH-ER'S UP...

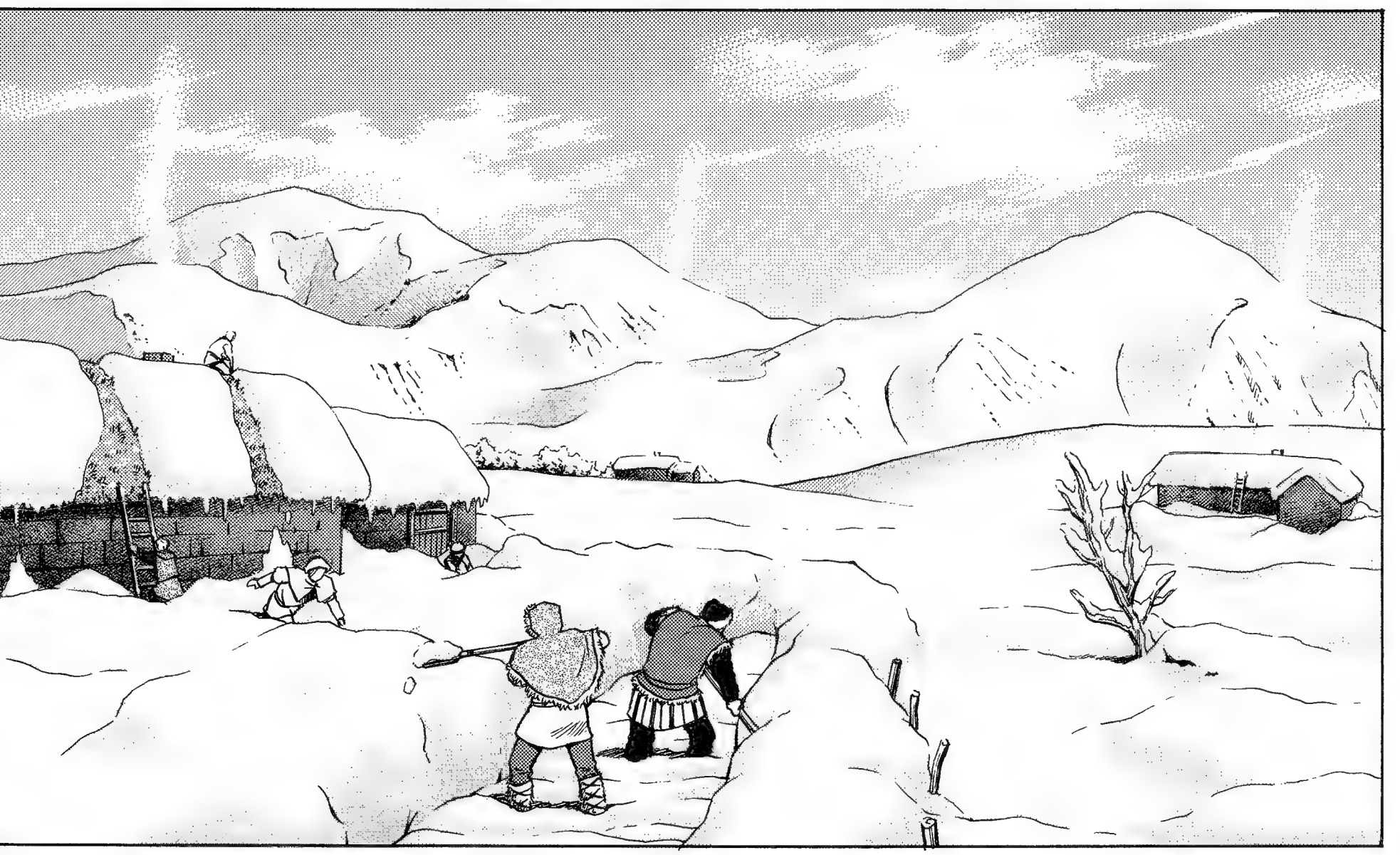
WOOOOSH

NOW GET BACK HERE.

LET BIG SIS HOLD YOU TIGHT.

SERI-OUSLY, LET ME HUG YOUR LITTLE BODY.

NOW! I'M FREEZ-ING!



WHY DON'T WE JUST BUY A SLAVE ALREADY, FATHER?

UGH, I CAN'T TAKE THIS!

SHKK

YOU ASK THAT EVERY YEAR, YLVA.

THEY HAVE THEIR WAY, AND WE HAVE OURS.

THE FOUR OF US HAVE SURVIVED WITHOUT EXTRA HELP SO FAR, HAVEN'T WE?

THUMP THUMP

ARI'S HOUSE HAS *THREE!* CAN'T WE JUST BORROW ONE FOR A DAY?

MOTHER'S SICKLY, AND I HAVE TO HELP WITH THE COOK-ING...

...

YES, BUT ONLY WITH THE LABOR OF THREE.

I SWEAR, YOU ARE SUCH AN ECCEN-TRIC.

EEEK

?!

YLVA!!

THWUP

HUP-HO.

UGH!

WHY CAN'T THORFINN GROW UP FASTER?

-ER?

THEN MAYBE MY LIFE WOULD BE A BIT EASI-

SLIP

PW UP

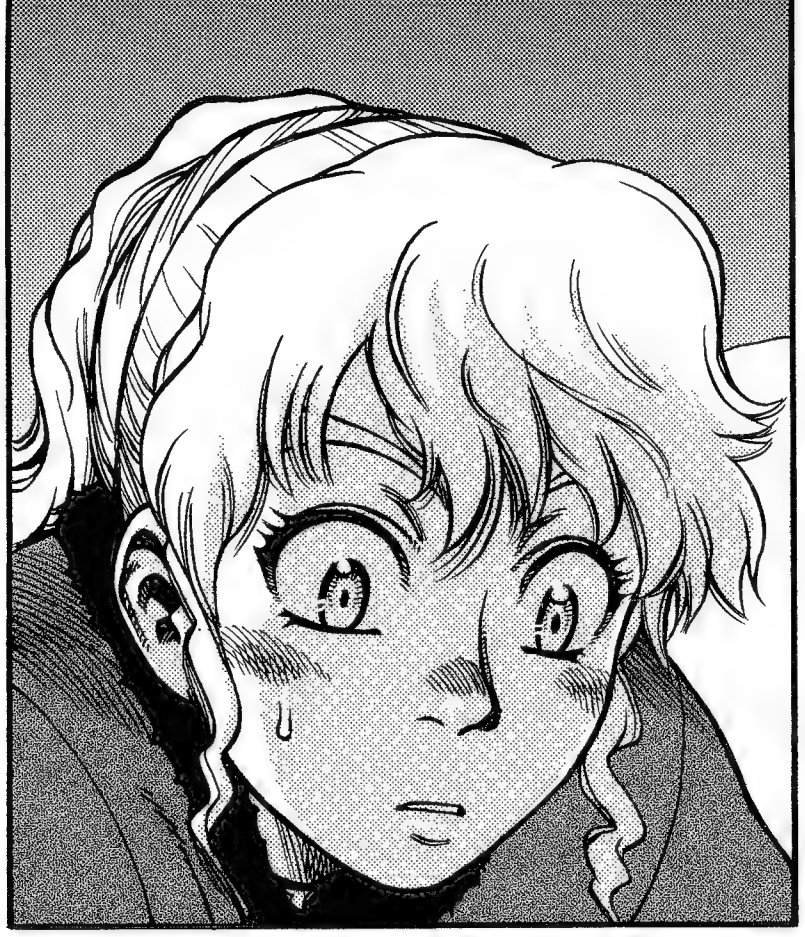
...WHOA ...

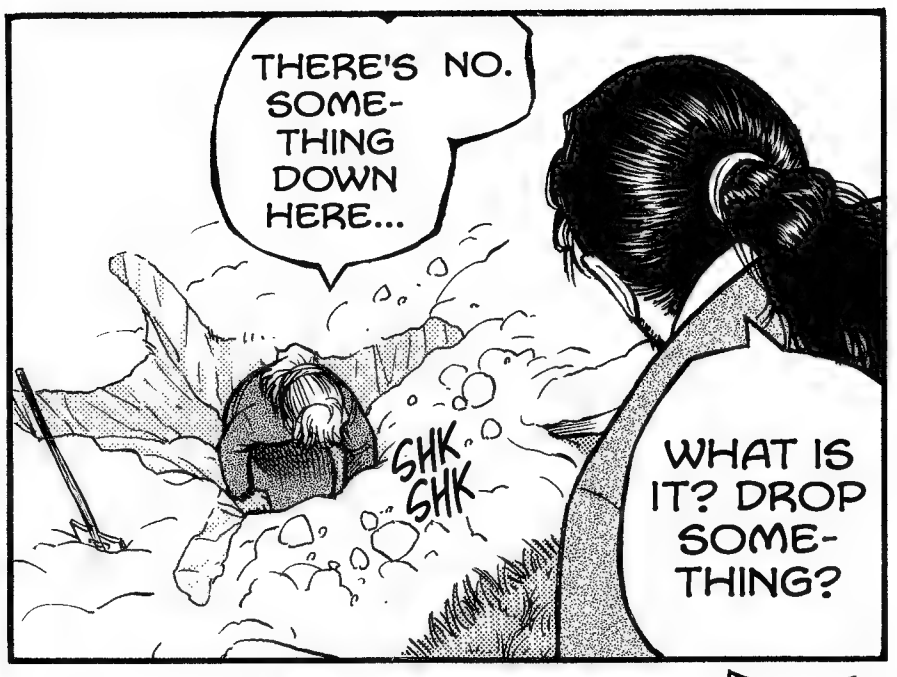
SAW MY LIFE FLASH BEFORE MY EYES...

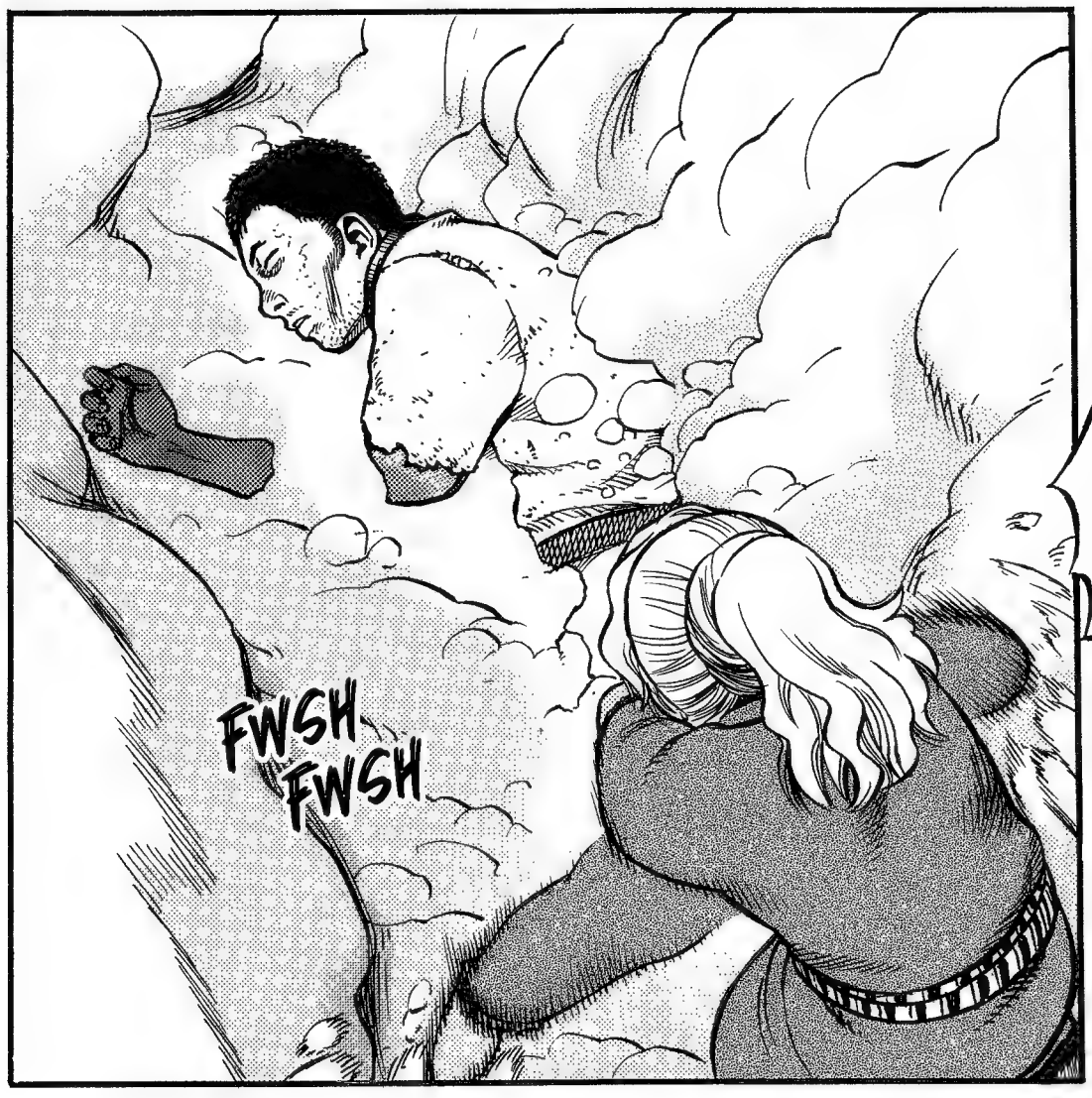
ARE YOU HURT?

WHEW. THANK THE GODS SHE'S TOUGH.

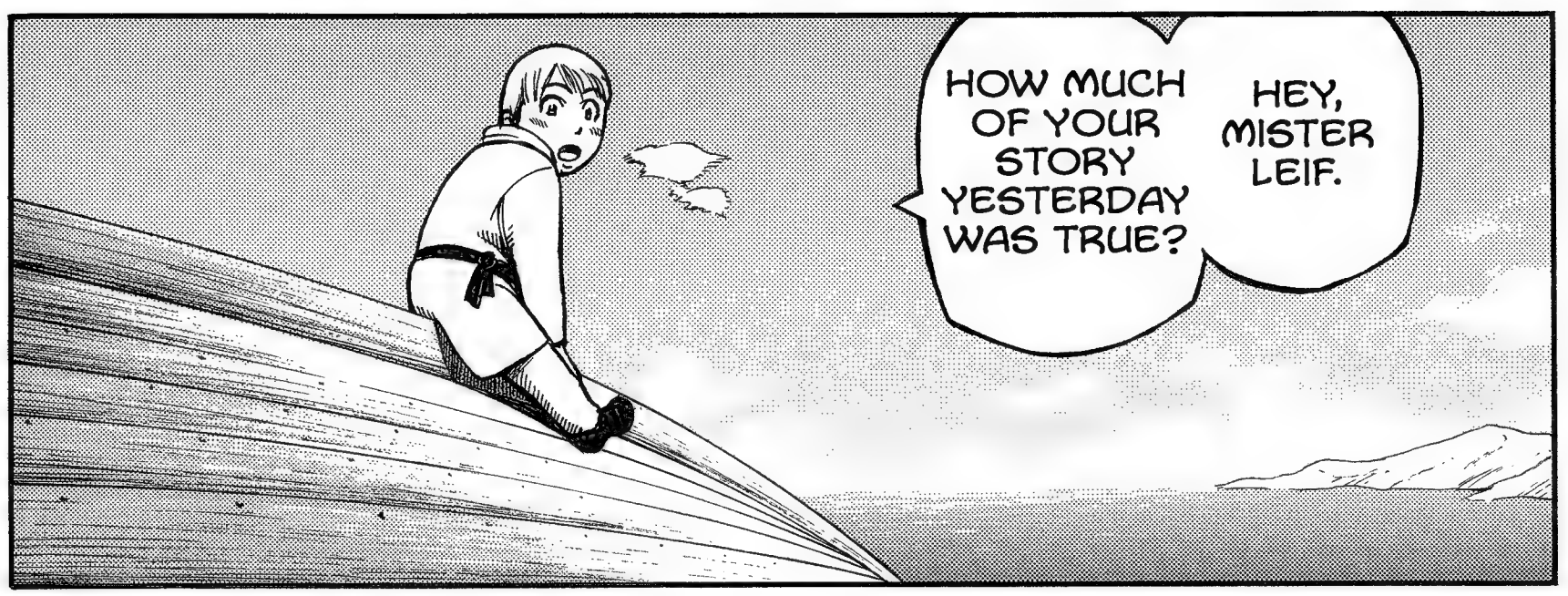
HMM ?




THERE'S NO. SOME-THING DOWN HERE...
SHK SHK
WHAT IS IT? DROP SOME-THING?


FWSH FWSH

F- FATHER !!
FWAP FWAP
COME QUICK!!
!


HOW MUCH OF YOUR STORY YESTERDAY WAS TRUE?
HEY, MISTER LEIF.

BAH!!

GO AHEAD AND SEE IF I TELL YOU ANY MORE STORIES.

HOW MUCH? IT'S *ALL* TRUE.

OKAY, LET ME RIDE ON YOUR SHIP, THEN.

I'LL BELIEVE IN VINLAND IF I SEE IT FOR MYSELF.

FOOL!

THAT'S NOT WHAT *BE-LIEVING* MEANS.

IF YOU WANT TO RIDE IN A SHIP, TRY YOUR FATHER'S.

THAT'S A LONGSHIP. FASTER, BIGGER, AND FANCIER THAN OUR HUMBLE KNARR.

SHKK

SPLAT

IT'S NOT THAT HE'S NO FUN.

THORS IS SIMPLY SAYING THAT YOU DON'T YET HAVE THE STRENGTH TO FIGHT AGAINST THE SEA.

HARRUMPH!

EVERY TIME I ASK, HE SAYS NO.

FATHER'S NO FUN AT ALL.

WHEN I WAS YOUNGER, MY SHIP RAN AGROUND ON SOME ICE FLOES NEAR BRATTALIHD.

WE WERE THERE FOR A WHOLE MONTH.

YOU SEE, THOR-FINN...

...THE SEA HERE IS DEADLY.

OUR FOOD STORES RAN OUT IN NO TIME...

...AND WE HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO EAT ICE TO STAVE OFF HUNGER AND THIRST.

SO... HOW DID YOU GUYS SURVIVE?

WE DIDN'T.

THE OTHER SIX DIED. ONLY I LIVED.

WE WERE STILL NEW TO GREENLAND, AND WE DIDN'T KNOW THE SEA WELL ENOUGH.

WE WERE CAUGHT CARELESS.

...AND WE WERE FORCED TO CROSS THE ICE IN SEARCH OF LAND...

ONE MISSTEP MEANT CERTAIN DEATH.

THE ICE CRUSHED OUR SHIP...

I WALKED FOR TWO DAYS AND NIGHTS, AND WHEN I TURNED AROUND...

...I FOUND THAT I WAS ALL ALONE.

FSSHHH...

?

WHY?

...

WHY DO WE COME SO FAR NORTH...

...TO LIVE ON THIS FREEZING ISLAND?

HELGA, BOIL SOME WATER!

HELGA!!

STOKE THE FIRE, YLVA, AND BRING THE FURS FROM THE BEDROOM.

OKAY!

HE WAS BURIED IN THE SNOW.

OH GOOD-NESS, WHAT HAP-PENED TO HIM?

THWUP

HAH

COVER HIS BODY WITH THE FURS.

OOH, OUCH...

WHAT'S THAT? WHIP MARKS?

!

HRG HRG

HIS LIMBS ARE ROTTING, AND HE'S NOT BREATH-ING...

UM... FATHER ?

HE ISN'T ALREADY DEAD, IS HE?

FWOOM

HE'S NOT FROM THIS VILLAGE.

THE POOR THING. WHY WAS HE OUT DURING THAT TERRIBLE BLIZZARD?

YOU DON'T KNOW?

JUST LOOK AT HIM, MOTHER.

AND BE-SIDES THAT...

THIS IS BAD NEWS, FATHER...

HE'S A RUN-AWAY SLAVE.

HE MUST HAVE CROSSED THE MOUNTAIN FROM THE NEAREST VILLAGE...

IT'S BAD NEWS ALL AROUND... IF THEY FIND OUT WE'VE AIDED HIM, THERE'LL BE HELL TO PAY...

WE WERE RUNNING AWAY.

PFF...

IN A LAND CALLED NORWAY.

OUR ANCESTORS LIVED FAR TO THE EAST OF HERE, AGES AGO.

BUT ONE DAY...

...THERE CAME A POWERFUL MAN NAMED HARALD.

OUR PEOPLE WERE THERE FOR CENTURIES.

IT WAS A GOOD PLACE, PROTECTED BY MANY LUSH FJORDS.

AND UNLIKE ICELAND AND GREENLAND, IT WAS WARM AND THE SEAS DID NOT FREEZE.

HARALD'S FORCES SWEPT THROUGH THE VILLAGES OF NORWAY LIKE WILDFIRE, CONQUERING FROM COAST TO COAST.

THUS, HE BEGAN HIS REIGN AS THE FIRST KING OF NORWAY.

AND THE NORWEGIAN PEOPLE WERE FACED WITH A HARD CHOICE.

KNEEL AND SERVE THE KING...

...OR LEAVE NORWAY FOREVER...

MANY PEOPLE DID NOT TAKE TO THE HEAVY HAND OF THE KING, AND CHOSE TO LEAVE THEIR HOMES.

THEY SET OUT ACROSS THE SEA, FAR TO THE WEST, AWAY FROM THE KING'S GRASP.

THUS THEY LANDED HERE ON ICELAND.

...

TO THIS DAY, THERE IS NO KING HERE.

WHEN ANY-THING NEEDS DOING, THE VILLAGES SEND REPRE-SENTATIVES TO DISCUSS AND DECIDE.

YOU'RE JUST A DIRTY LIAR!!

SLIDE SLIDE

OUR ANCESTORS WOULDN'T TURN TAIL AND RUN AWAY FROM THEIR PROBLEMS!!

...

... YOU'RE LYING.

I'LL GO ASK FATHER!

TEK TEK

AT LEAST HE WON'T TELL ME *LIES!*

TEK TEK TEK

MISTER LEIF SAYS THAT...

FATHER!

FATHER!

THERE YOU ARE, THOR-FINN.

HNG

HNG

...

UM... WHO'S THAT?

...

HE ESCAPED AND CAME HERE.

SOME-ONE'S SLAVE.

!!

W-WAIT, HE'S COMING BACK TO LIFE?!

NO WAY!!

KOFF KOFF

GAKH

IT'S COLD...

...

SMACK

HEY !!

CAN YOU TELL ME YOUR NAME ?!

THE FIRE, YLVA. MAKE IT STRON-GER!

AH-

UM... RIGHT.

WHERE DID YOU COME FROM?

WHERE WERE YOU GOING?

ARE-

ARE YOU...

TO LORD HALF-DAN'S HOUSE ...?

...GOING TO TAKE ME BACK...?

HFF...

HALF-DAN! I KNEW IT!

HE'S FROM OVER THE MOUN-TAIN...

BUT...

I...I DON'T WANT... TO GO...

BACK... THERE...

...EVER AGAIN...

I DON'T... HAVE... ANY-WHERE...

...E-ELSE...

...TO GO...

ZSH ZSH

THEY'VE COME WITH ANOTHER SILLY BONE TO PICK!!

YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN TALK HIM DOWN.

WHAM

THORS!!

COME QUICK! HALFDAN'S SHIP IS AT THE DOCK!!

Y-

YOU SEE? I TOLD YOU, FATHER!

MURMUR...

MURMUR...

WHAT IS THE MEAN-ING OF THIS?

YOU BARGE INTO PORT WITHOUT PERMISSION, DRAGON-HEAD STILL ATTACHED.

HAVE YOU FORGOT-TEN YOUR SAILOR'S COURTESY, HALFDAN?

BEGONE, OLD MAN LEIF.

THIS IS A LOCAL MATTER, NO BUSINESS OF A GREENLANDER.

WE HAVE BUSINESS IN THIS VILLAGE.

I HAVE REASON TO BELIEVE...

...THEY MIGHT BE KEEPING ONE OF MY SLAVES FOR ME...

YAHA!

CHAPTER 3 - END

CHAPTER 4: UNBREAKABLE CHAINS

IT'S HALFDAN AND HIS HENCHMEN.

OVER THIRTY MARCHING INTO TOWN!!

THEY LANDED WITHOUT PERMISSION, GOING ON ABOUT A SLAVE OR SOME NONSENSE!

LEIF'S OUT THERE TRYING TO SMOOTH THINGS OVER... BUT IT LOOKS AS THOUGH THE YOUNGER MEN MIGHT BUTT HEADS AT ANY MOMENT.

WE NEED YOU ***NOW***, THORS!

STRIKE HIM! SHOUT TO GET HIS ATTENTION !!

?!

THORS!

HE STOPPED BREATH-ING!

HE CAME TO VISIT US ALL THE WAY FROM REYK-JAVIK...

...BUT WITH THE RECENT CHILL, HE UNFORTU-NATELY GOT SICK.

WELLLL, THIS JUST HAPPENS TO BE A DISTANT RELATIVE, SEE...

WHO'S THAT? I DON'T THINK I'VE SEEN HIM BEF-

?

LEAP

I'M COMING IN A MO-MENT!

URGE EVERY-ONE TO KEEP LEVEL HEADS.

H-HANG ON!

OH?

GO ON! YOU DON'T WANT TO CATCH WHAT HE'S GOT!

I'LL HAVE TO GIVE YOU A PROPER INTRO-DUCTION WHEN HE'S BETTER!

SUCH A SHAME, REALLY. HE'S BEEN BEDRIDDEN SINCE HE ARRIVED!

SWISH...

FWISH FWISH

GULP...

JANGLE...

FWISH

FWISH

CHAINS...

...ARE THE ONLY NECKWEAR THAT TRULY SUITS A HUMAN BEING.

ONLY A CHAIN OF HARD IRON AROUND THE NECK CAN TURN A MAN INTO SOMETHING BETTER.

NOT GOLD, NOT SILVER. COLD IRON CHAINS.

...

DO YOU NOT AGREE?

WE OUGHT TO PAY OUR RESPECTS TO THIS MOST SUBLIME OF INVENTIONS.

ONE OF MY SLAVES CUT HIS CHAINS AND ESCAPED LAST NIGHT.

DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEAS?

THERE WAS A BLIZZARD LAST NIGHT.

IT'S QUITE POSSIBLE THAT HE CAME TO THIS VILLAGE TO FIND SHELTER.

WE MUST INVESTI-GATE.

HE IS A YOUNG SLAVIC MAN, WITH AN IRON RING AROUND HIS NECK!

KEEP YOUR FLIMSY EXCUSES, HALFDAN!!

THIS IS JUST YOUR CHANCE TO SETTLE OUR OLD SCORE, ISN'T IT?!

WHAT'S THE STORY HERE?

WE'VE HAD SEVERAL SQUABBLES OVER THE BOUNDARIES OF GRAZING LAND BETWEEN OUR VILLAGE AND HIS.

THEY LIKE TO BARGE ONTO OUR TERRITORY AND HARVEST OUR GRASS FOR THEIR WINTER STOCK.

WHIS-PER

PEOPLE ON BOTH SIDES WERE GETTING HURT, SO WE JUST HAD IT SETTLED AT THE LAST THING.*

*A "THING" IS A VIKING ASSEMBLY.

HOW DO WE SETTLE THIS, THEN?!

I LOST MY LEFT ARM IN A FIGHT WITH YOU.

IT WAS TAKEN CLEAN OFF WITH A SCYTHE!

JAB

YOU, BOY! I RECOGNIZE YOUR FACE!

THAT SHOULD HAVE BEEN AD-DRESSED AT THE THING.

DON'T TRY TO STOP ME, LEIF!

I REMEMBER *YOUR* FACE, TOO.

KNOCK IT OFF, ARI!

IT BELONGS TO THE MAN WHO CUT OFF MY BROTHER'S LEG.

THAT'S MORE LIKE IT! WE'LL SETTLE THIS WITH SWORDS!

THE LAWS AND THE THINGS ARE DOGSHIT!

SLIDE

IS THAT REPARATION MEANT TO HELP MY BROTHER WALK AGAIN?!

IT'S NOT OVER UNTIL I'VE TAKEN A LEG OF HIS IN RETURN!!

SHK

AA

KYIIING...

TUG

I WILL CHAIN YOU.

H-

HALF-DAN...

WHA...
I...
SHNNG
GLATCH
JERK
EEYAAAGH
AH...

ONLY WHEN HE IS CHAINED DOES A SAVAGE BECOME A MAN.

DO NOT FORGET THIS.

THE LAW IS A CHAIN.

I WILL NOT TOLERATE INSULTS TO THE LAW.

...

SHHH...

A SLAVE OF MINE CUT HIS CHAINS AND ESCAPED.

DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEAS?

I THOUGHT I WAS IN ICELAND...

WHERE... AM I...?

...

GAHHK...

CAWW...

I'VE NEVER BEEN SO AT PEACE...

AHH...

HANG IN THERE !!

HEY! LOOK AT ME!!

THORS... I THINK HE'S...

DON'T LEAVE US!! WAKE UP, OR YOU'LL DIE!!

SMACK

CAN YOU HEAR ME?!

YOU'RE... YOU'RE ALL HERE...?

MOM... SISTER...

DAD ...?

...

I WAS... SO WOR-RIED...
AFTER WE WERE SOLD OFF... I THOUGHT YOU'D BE DEAD...
BUT... WHERE IS THIS...?
WHY AM I HERE...?
...
CAN YOU HEAR ME?
FAR TO THE WEST...
...ACROSS THE SEA...
...THERE IS A PLACE... CALLED VINLAND.
IT IS WARM AND FERTILE ...
...FAR FROM SLAVERY AND THE FIRES OF WAR.
NO ONE CAN REACH YOU THERE.

WILL YOU LIVE THERE WITH US?

WHAT DO YOU SAY...?

...

VIN-LAND...

SO THIS...

...IS *VINLAND*...

...

I SEE...

BOO

THERE YOU ARE.

HMPH.

I AM ONLY HERE TO RETRIEVE MY SLAVE.

FORGIVE MY INTRU-SION, THORS.

COME, THORFINN.

F... FATHER ...

I AM ITS RIGHTFUL OWNER.

I WILL HAVE IT BACK.

WE WEREN'T HIDING HIM FROM YOU!

AS I TRIED TO EXPLAIN TO YOU EARLIER, MY FATHER WAS *CONSIDERATELY* SAVING YOUR SLAVE AND NURSING HIM BACK TO HEALTH! UM, YES!

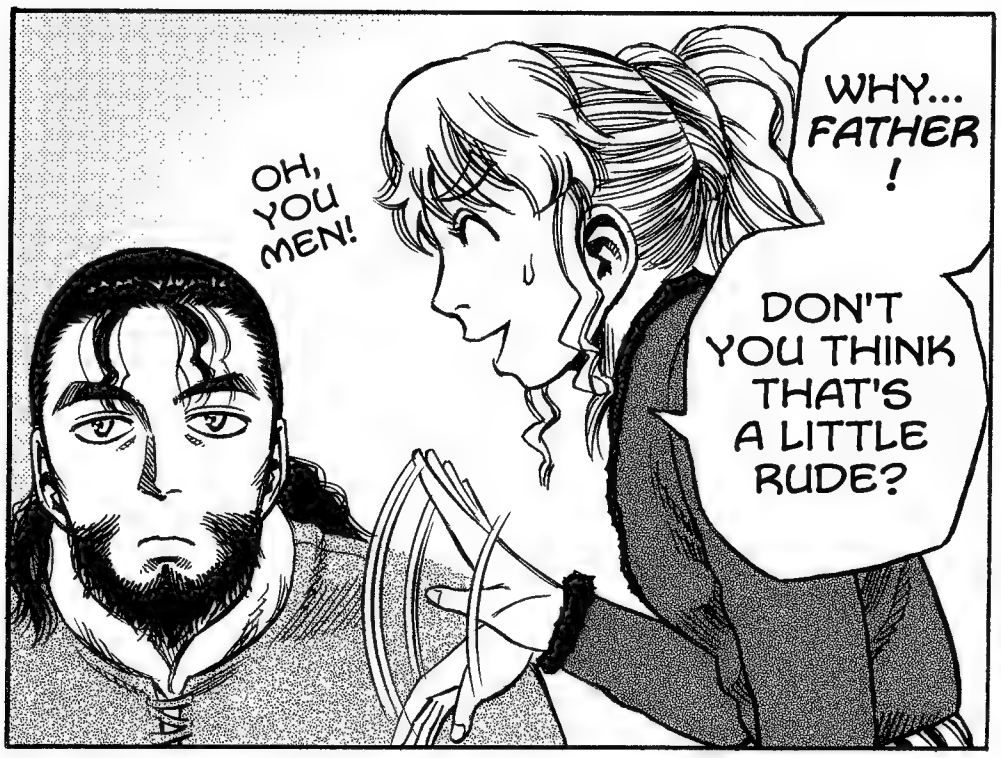
HALFDAN! PLEASE LISTEN!

HALF-DAN...

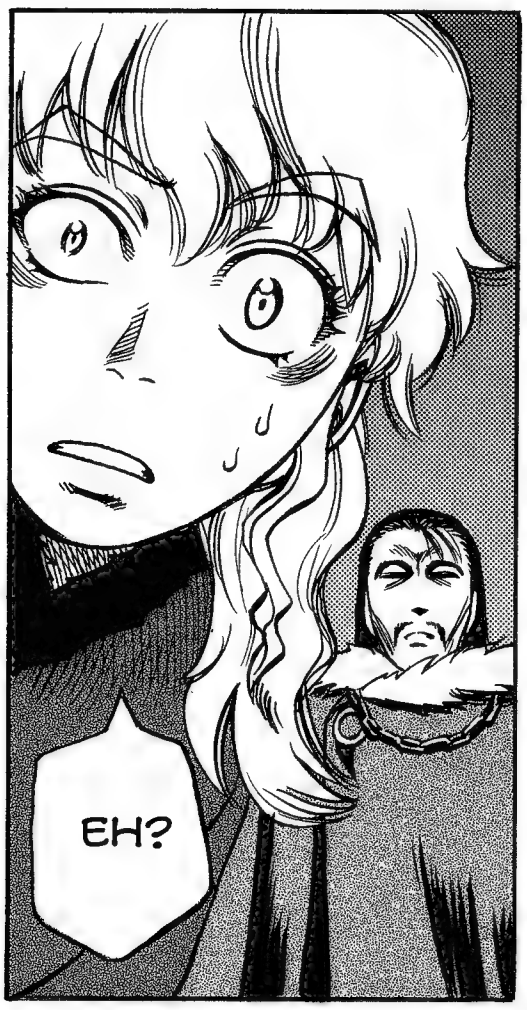
HOW MUCH DID YOU PAY FOR HIM?

RIGHT, DEAR FATHER? ♥ SO LET'S GIVE THE MAN BACK HIS PROPERTY!

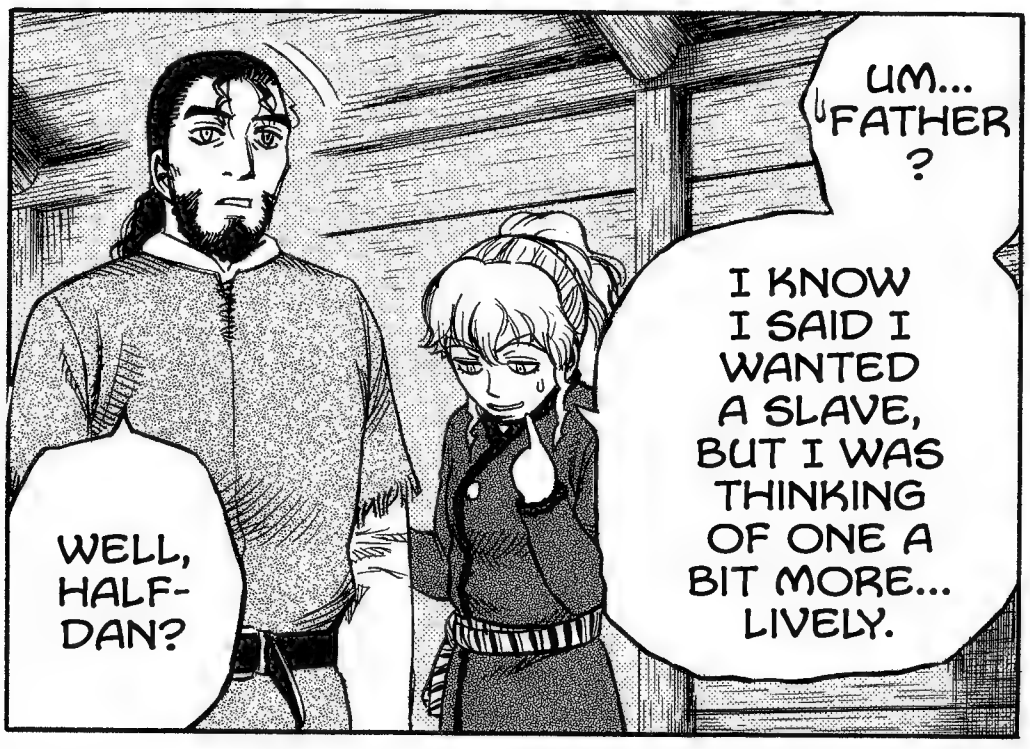
WASN'T THAT NICE OF HIM TO COME BACK IN PERSON TO RECLAIM WHAT'S HIS?


OH, YOU MEN!
WHY... FATHER!
DON'T YOU THINK THAT'S A LITTLE RUDE?

...
TWO SHEEP.
YOUNG EWES.


EH?

I'LL GIVE YOU THREE...
...TO BUY HIM FROM YOU.


WELL, HALF-DAN?
UM... FATHER?
I KNOW I SAID I WANTED A SLAVE, BUT I WAS THINKING OF ONE A BIT MORE... LIVELY.

HE MUST SERVE AS A WARNING.

HE WILL BE TORTURED BEFORE THE OTHER SLAVES.

I AM TAKING HIM BACK WITH ME.

FOUR SHEEP.

DID YOU NOT HEAR WHAT HALFDAN JUST SAID, THO-

SI-LENCE.

FO...

YOU'LL HAVE IT.

ALL EWES, UNDER THREE YEARS.

...

IF I ASKED FOR TWICE THAT?

...4X2?!

ARE YOU SERIOUS ?!

MUTTER

OHHH...

HMPH.

EIGHT SHEEP FOR A HALF-DEAD SLAVE.

...

I WILL CHOOSE THE SHEEP MYSELF.

IT'S TOO GOOD A PRICE TO REFUSE.

TSK

WOBBLE...

YOU'RE KID-DING...

THE DEAL'S DONE?

DO YOU BELIEVE YOU HAVE CUT HIS CHAINS?

...THORS.

...WHERE WILL YOU TAKE HIM?

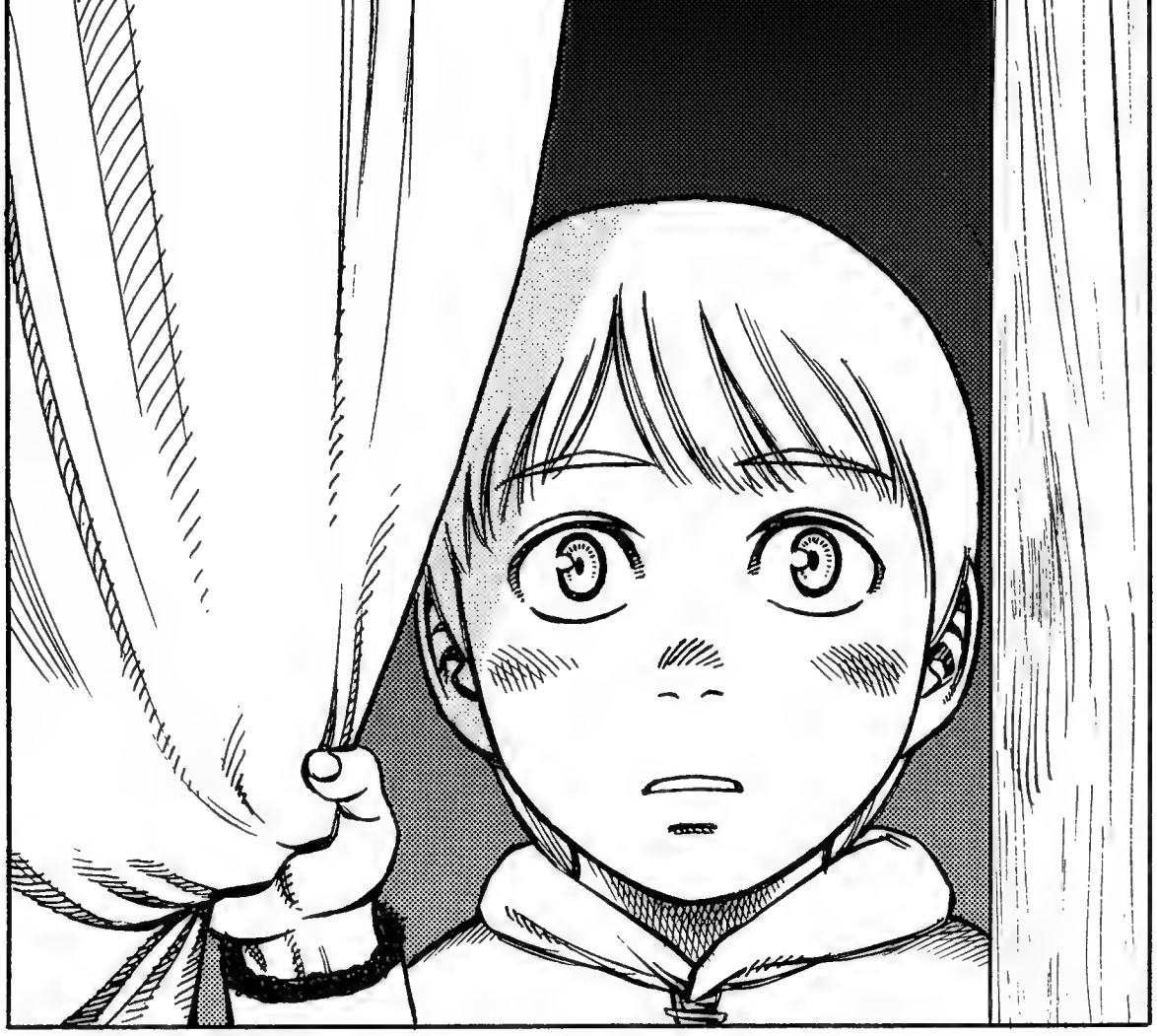
JANGLE...

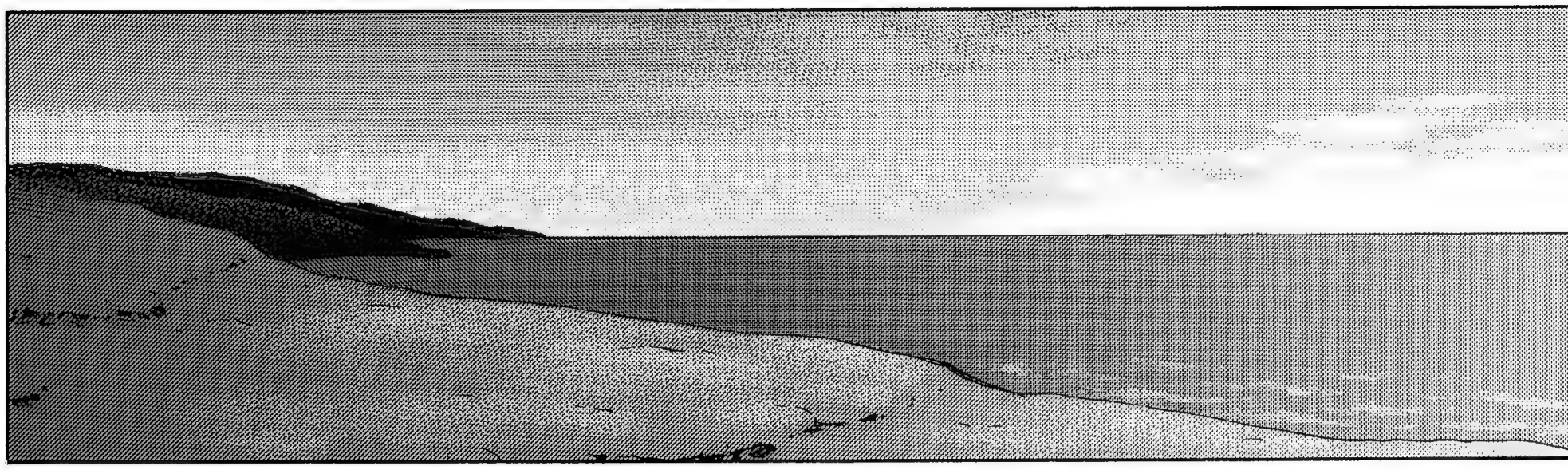
WITH THOSE CHAINS CUT...

AAAH

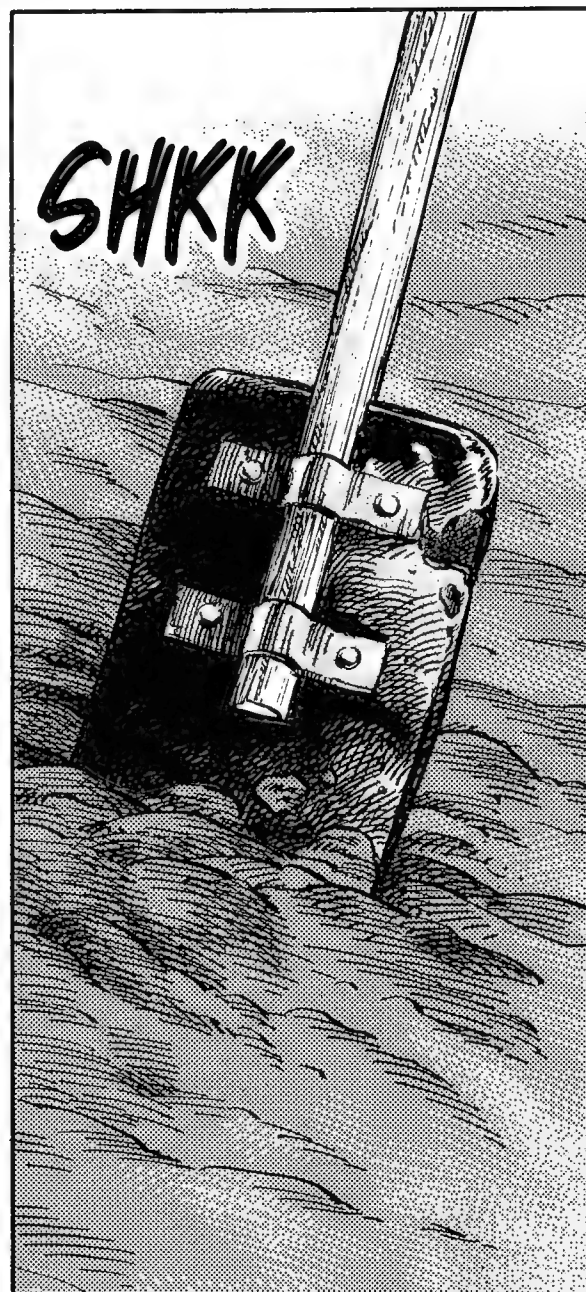
YOUR SILENCE IS ALL THE ANSWER I NEED.

HMPH...





SHK...


SHKK

SHIK

SHUK...

YLVA ...

...ARE YOU SAD?

SOB

SOB

HIC!

WHAT AM I DOING HERE, PLACING A BURIAL STONE?!

WHAT IS WRONG WITH THIS SITUA-TION?!

WE GAVE UP EIGHT HEALTHY SHEEP...

...FOR A SLAVE WHO *DIED BEFORE THE DAY WAS DONE!!*

OF COURSE I'M SAD!!

SNIFF

AAHHH

ARGH, THIS IS TERRI-BLE!!

STUPID, CLUELESS, ECCENTRIC FATHER!!

WAAHHH!!

FATHER ...

DID WE COME HERE TO ESCAPE, TOO...?

SCRATCH...

LEARN HOW TO HAGGLE!! WAAHHH...

MISTER LEIF SAYS...

...OUR ANCESTORS CAME HERE FROM THE EAST...

THAT WE CAME TO ICELAND TO ESCAPE...

...YES.

THAT'S WHAT IS SAID.

THEN...

...IF SOMEONE WANTS TO ESCAPE FROM HERE...

...WHERE DO THEY GO?

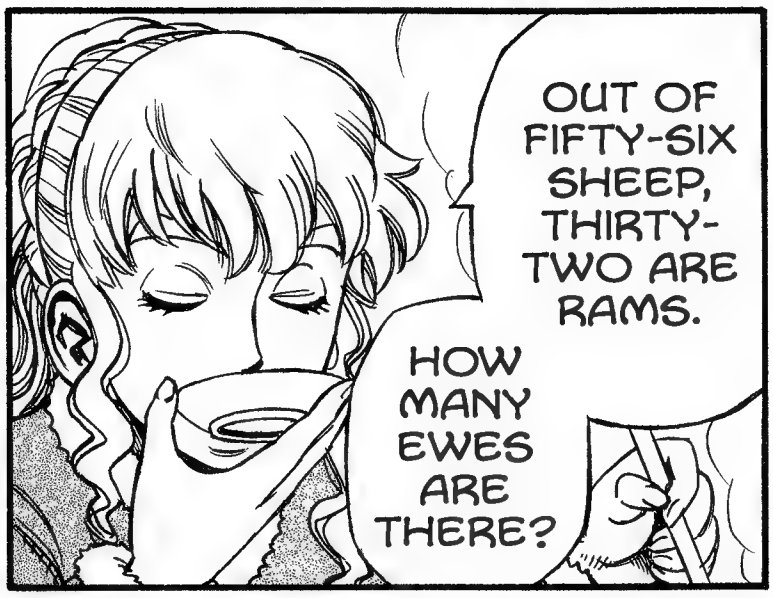
CHAPTER 4 - END

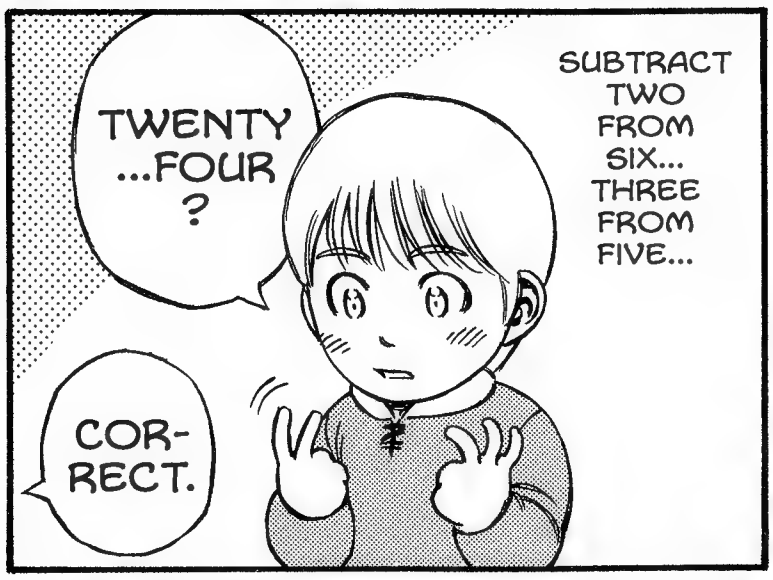
HEROIC EXPLOITS OF VIKING GIRL YLVA

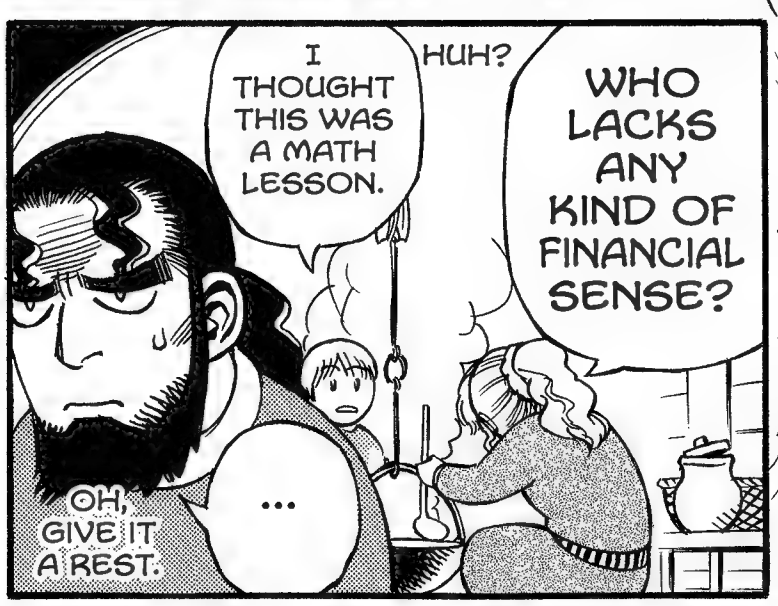
BY: MAKOTO YUKIMURA

MIGHT MAKES RIGHT!!

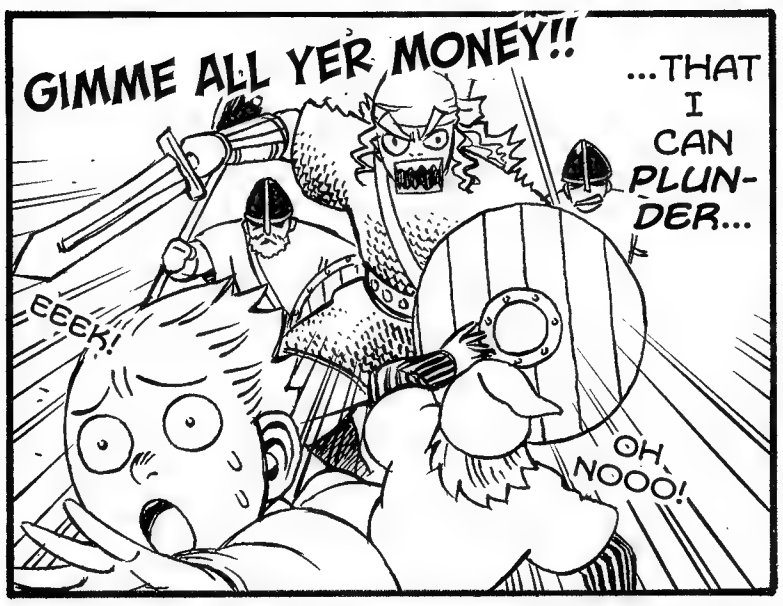
MATH TIME

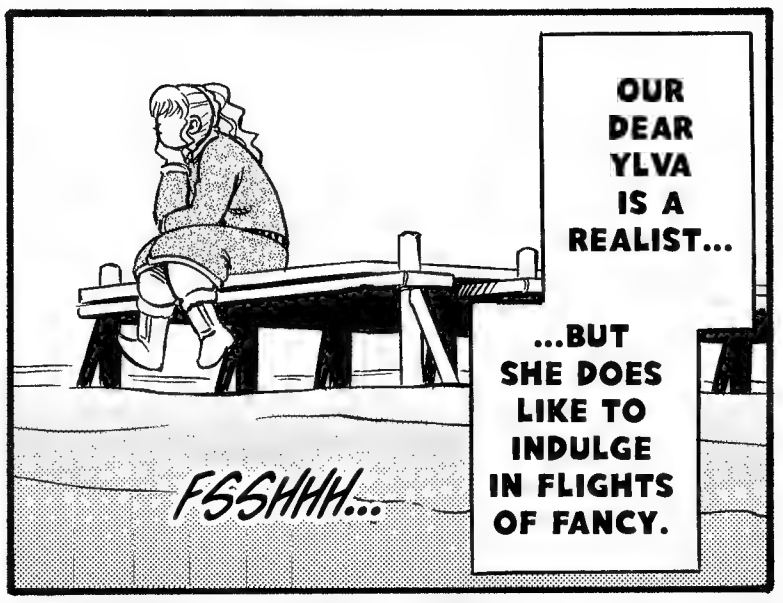


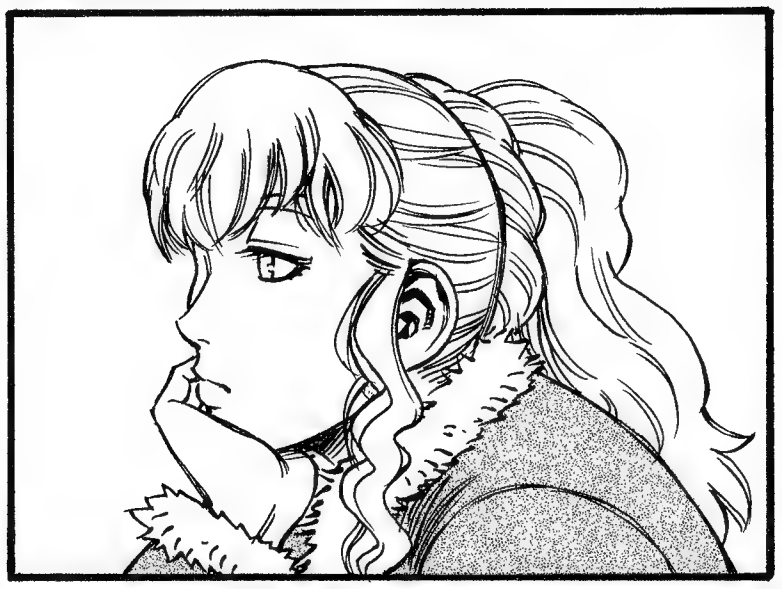


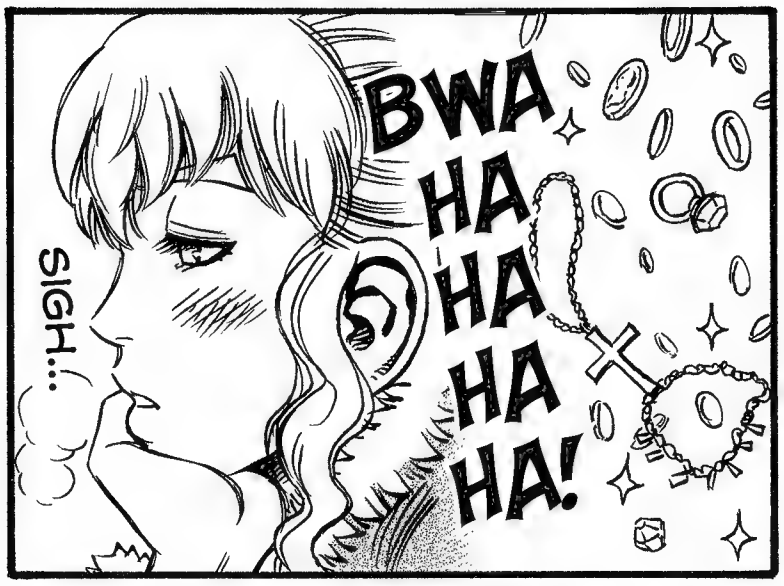


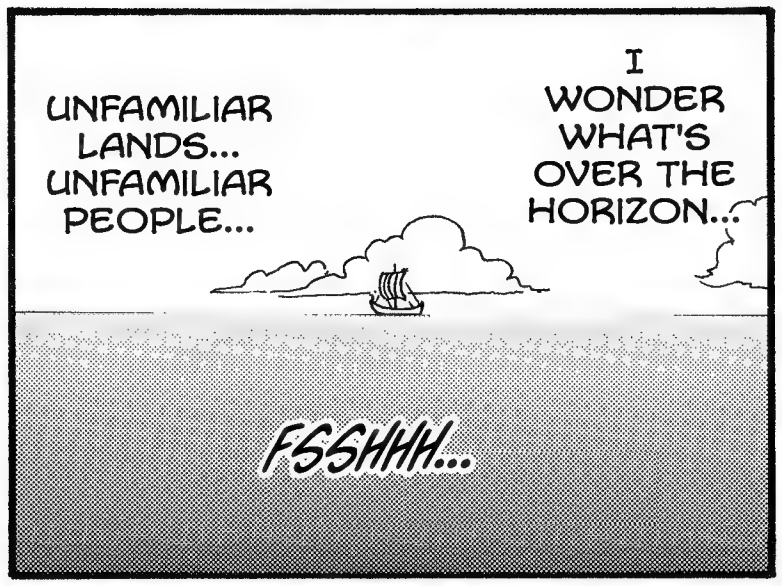
I'M A VIKING, AFTER ALL

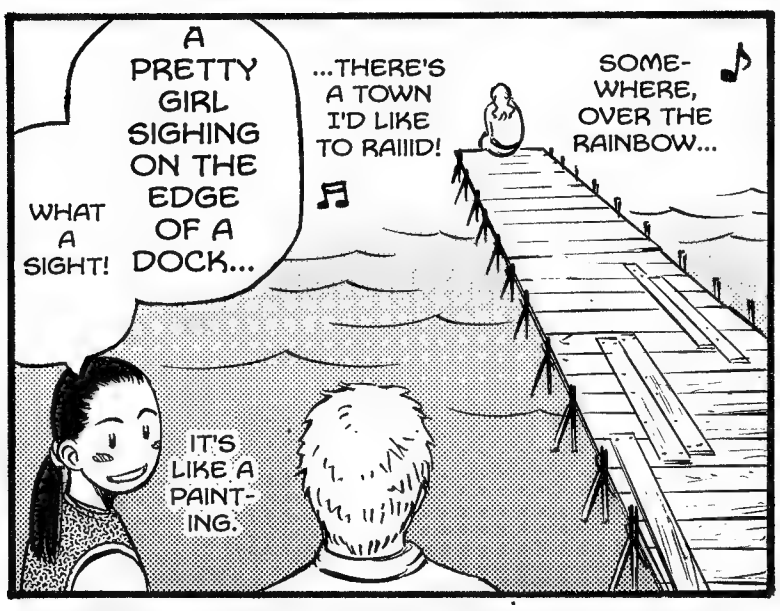


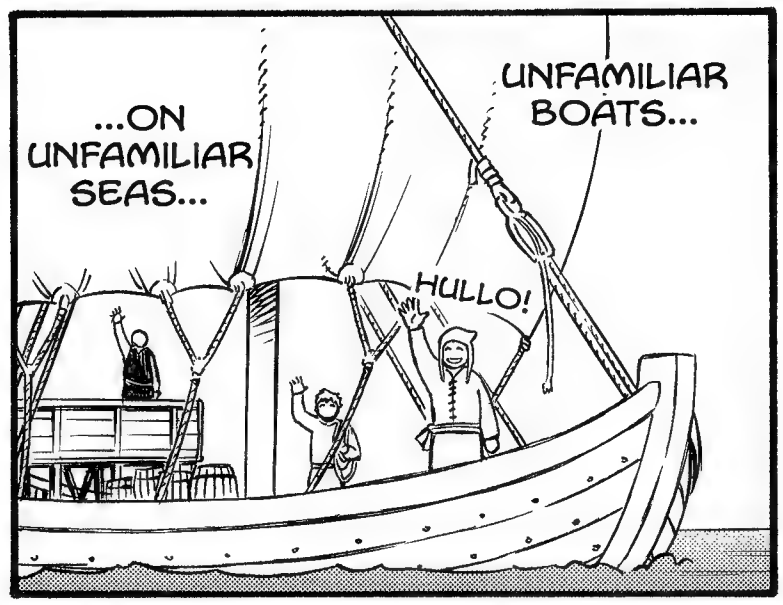








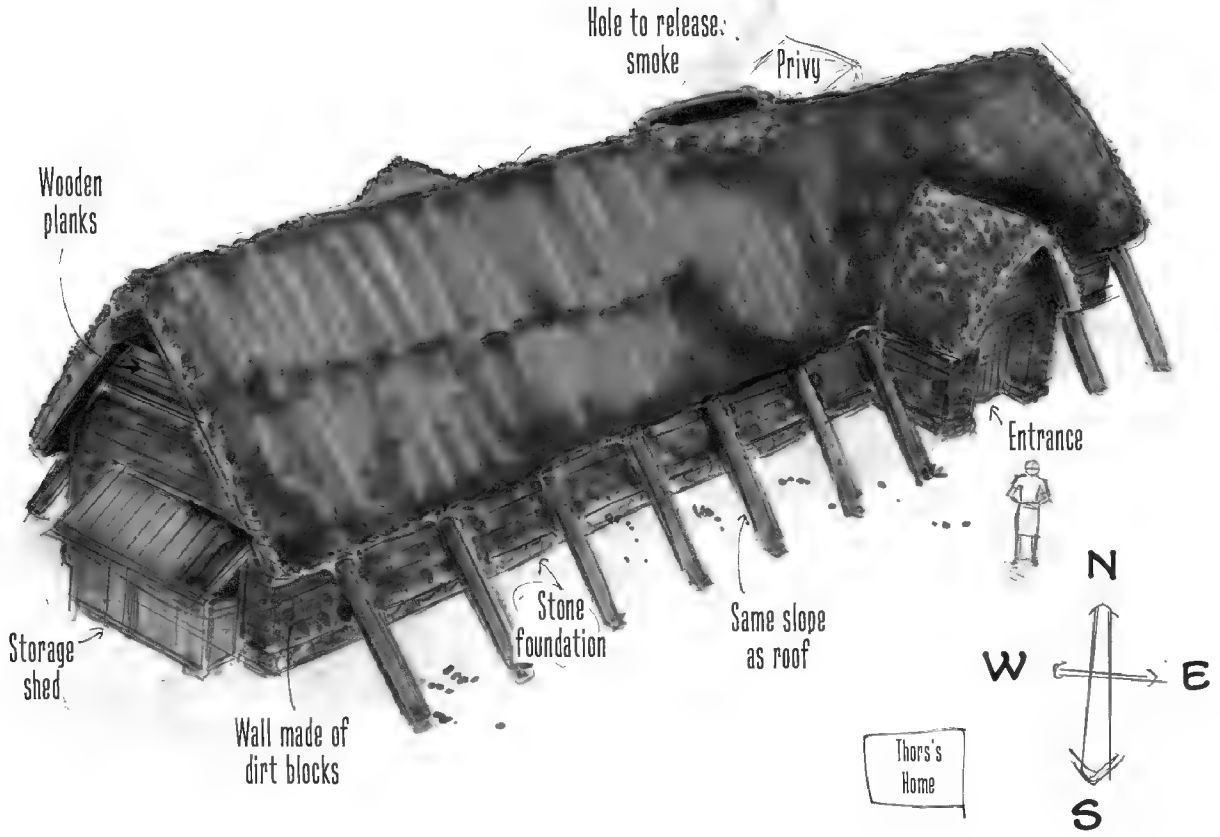

A PRETTY GIRL SIGHING ON THE EDGE OF A DOCK...
WHAT A SIGHT!
...THERE'S A TOWN I'D LIKE TO RAIIID!
SOME-WHERE, OVER THE RAINBOW...
IT'S LIKE A PAINT-ING.

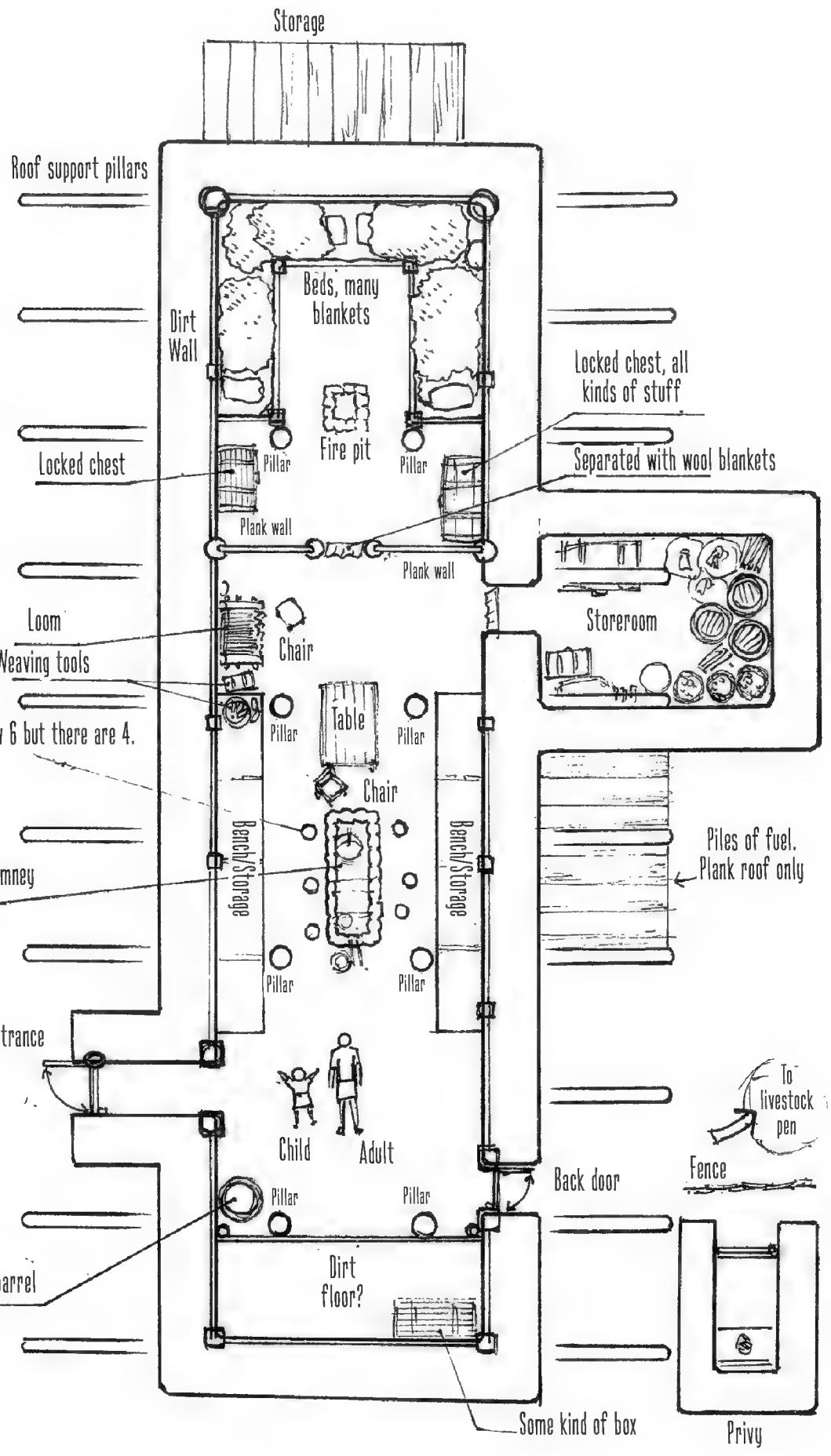


I HAVE A NEWFOUND RESPECT FOR FOUR-PANEL ARTISTS...

SUPPLE-MENTAL DESIGNS

THORS'S HOME





AFTERWORD

We don't truly know the full etymology of the name "viking." It's said the base of the word is "vik," which means inlet. They used inlets as natural ports; building villages within them; raising sheep and pigs; cultivating small amounts of land; fashioning tools; eating barley, herrings, whales and seals; drinking beer; crying; laughing; and falling in love. Their piratical image tends to precede them, but I would like to continue studying them and portraying them in various other ways.

MAKOTO YUKIMURA

VINLAND SAGA

HA HA HA HA!

SPLASH

NOVEMBER 13TH, 1002 A.D.

SPLASH

GYA HA HA HA!

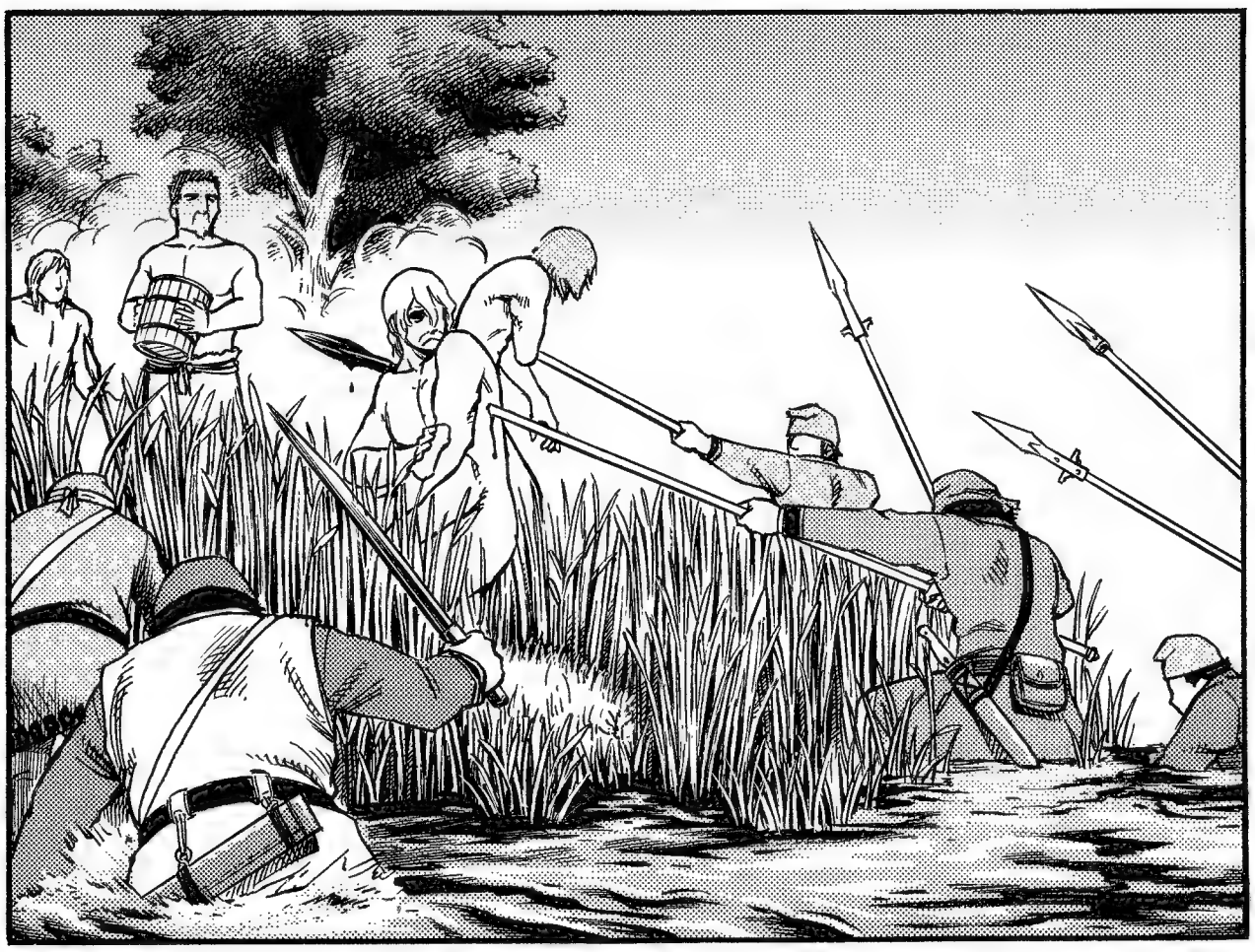
SPLISH...

IT WAS A SATUR-DAY...

...THE DAY THE VIKINGS CUSTOM-ARILY BATHED.

AND THE ENGLISH WERE WELL AWARE...

...OF THIS CULTURAL PRACTICE.



GAHK
...EN...

ENEMY ATTACK !!

CHAPTER 5: TROLL

NORTHERN ENGLAND
EARLDOM OF NORTHUMBRIA
VIKING SETTLEMENT

GYAAHH
BURN IT ALL DOWN!!
FWOOOM
NO MERCY FOR WOMEN OR CHILDREN! HIS MAJESTY HAS ORDERED THAT *ALL* ARE TO BE PUT TO THE SWORD!!
RAHHHH

RA AHHH

CLUNK

CRANK

CONK

KANK

ALL RIGHT!

OHHH, YA GOT MEEE...

I KILLED SNORRI !!

I'M DYING, I'M DYIIING!

I'LL GET YOU NEXT TIME!

THWAK

YEOW!

HIYAH!

SLAASH !!

RAHHHH

KANG YEOW CRUNK WHOP DIE CLANG

AAAGH!

TAKE THAT!

HOW MANY ARE ON OUR SIDE?

YOU'RE DEAD, YOU CAN'T MOVE!

GET 'EM!

UGFH!

THUD

YAHHHH!!

RAHH!

CHAA-ARGE!!

SPEAR UNIT, UP FRONT!!

...

...STOMP STOMP

DIE DIE DIE!

OOF!

KILL 'EM ALL!

STOMP STOMP STOMP

DEAD BODIES AREN'T ALLOWED TO TALK, THORFINN.

HOW COME I ALWAYS DIE RIGHT AT THE BEGIN-NING?

MY BACK'S FREEZ-ING...

THE BATTLE WENT *THAT* WAY.

AWW, MAN.

OH, I GET IT NOW. YOU'D LIKE THAT, WOULDN'T YOU?

WELL, THE VALKYRIES COME IF YOU DIE ON THE FIELD OF BATTLE.

THEN I CAN GO TO VALHALLA AND FEAST ON MEAT EVERY DAY.

YOU'RE *ALWAYS* THE FIRST ONE TO DIE, FAXI.

MMM.

RAHHH

DIE! TAKE THAT!

CONK

RAAH!

CLACK

GYA HA HA!

DOES THAT MEAN MY MOTHER AND SISTER...

...CAN'T GO TO VAL-HALLA...?

...

THEY ONLY LET POWERFUL WARRIORS INTO VALHALLA.

BUT YOU CAN'T JUST DIE RIGHT AWAY.

SO COLD!

HMM ...

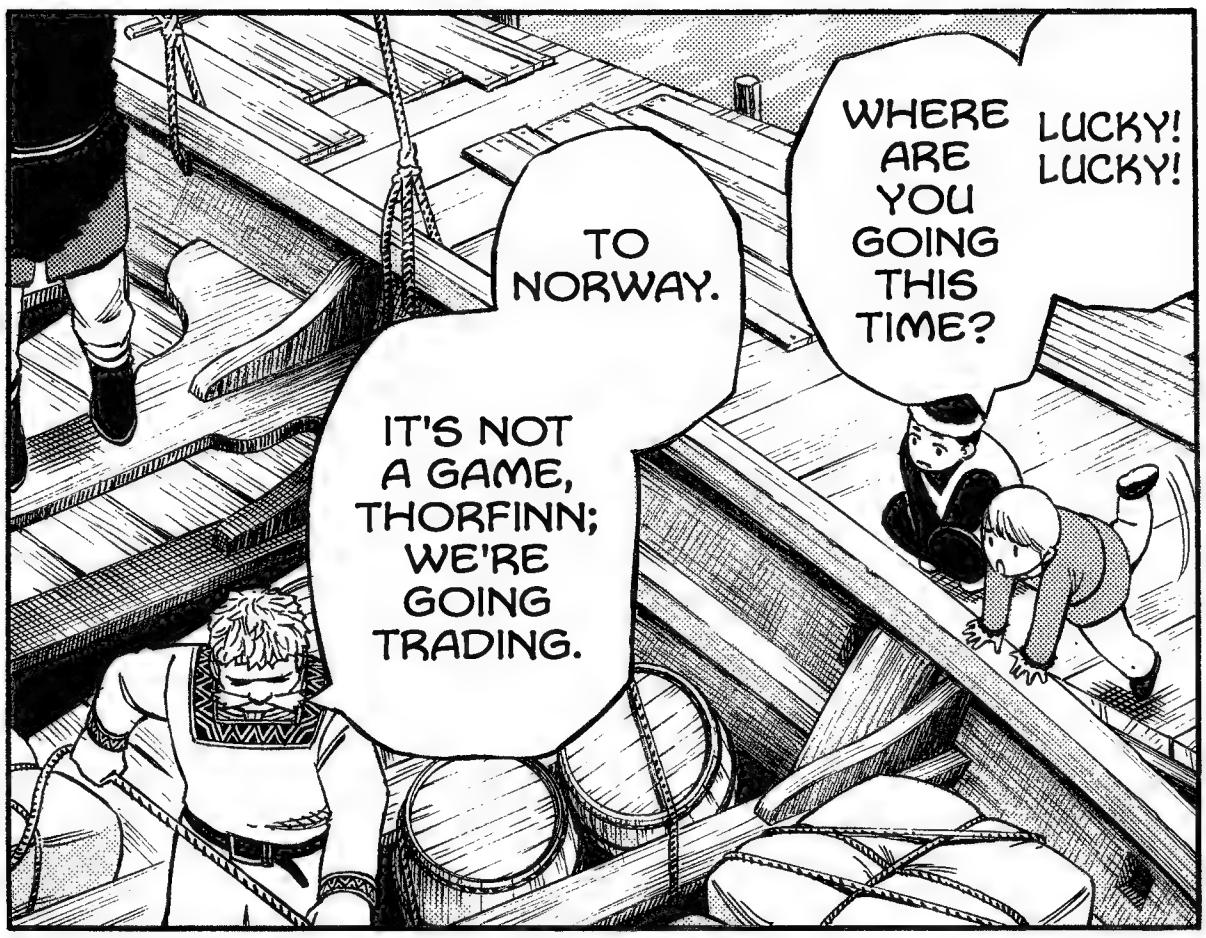
I SEE...

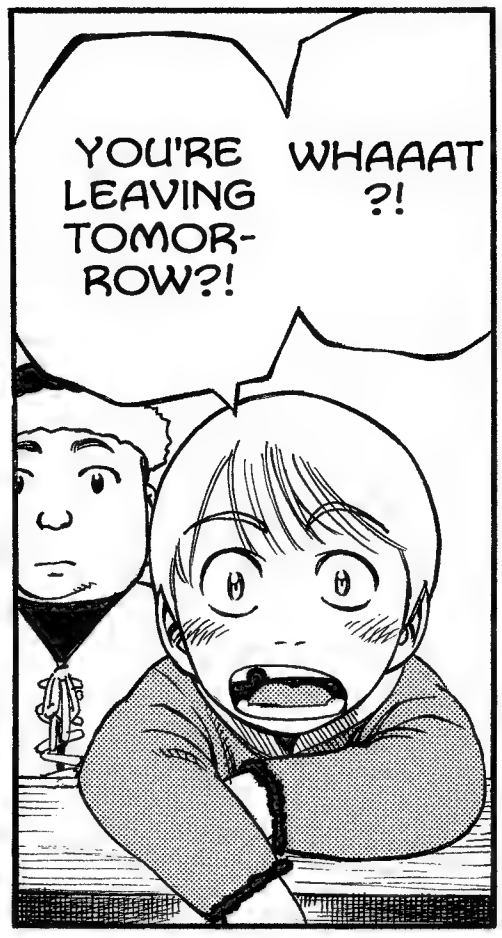
THAT'S ME!

MISTER LEIF.

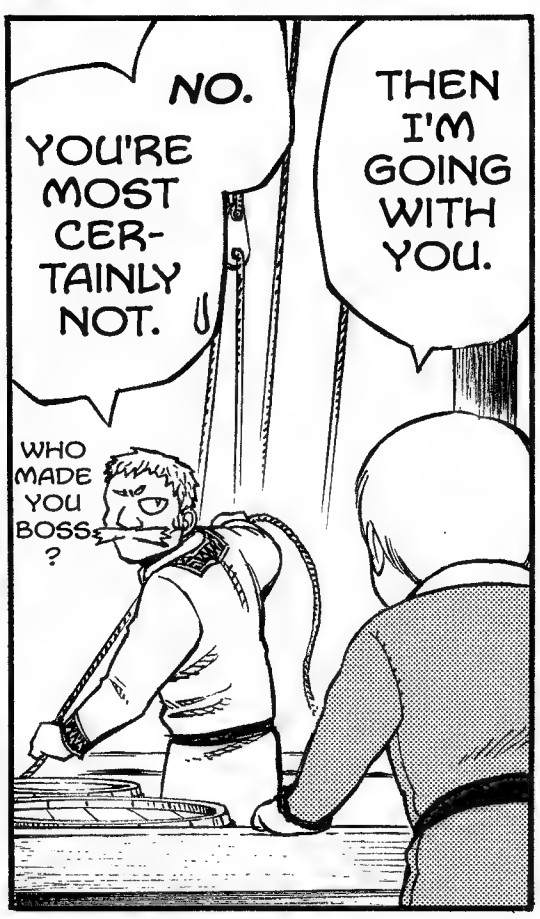
CAREFUL NOT TO DIE ON THE SNOW, OR YOU'LL GET SICK!

BWA HA HA! DEFEATED IN BATTLE, THOR-FINN?


WHERE ARE YOU GOING THIS TIME?
LUCKY! LUCKY!
TO NORWAY.
IT'S NOT A GAME, THORFINN; WE'RE GOING TRADING.


YOU'RE LEAVING TOMOR-ROW?!
WHAAAT ?!

POO! YOU'RE NO FUN.
WELL, I HOPE YOU RUN INTO ICEBERGS IN MID-WINTER THEN!


NO.
YOU'RE MOST CER-TAINLY NOT.
THEN I'M GOING WITH YOU.
WHO MADE YOU BOSS?

THESE RUGS AND FURS CAN BE EXCHANGED FOR WINE AND SUCH THINGS.

HUMM ...

FATHER LIKES MEAD MORE THAN WINE. WHY DON'T YOU ASK HIM FOR SOME?

NO, THERE IS MEANING IN IT BEING WINE.

HONORED BE HIS NAME.

SWISH

WE NEED WINE BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR.

BACK IN GREENLAND, WE MUST CELEBRATE THE BIRTH OF JESUS CHRIST WITH IT.

I WAS HOPING I COULD FIND SOME IN THIS VILLAGE...

...BUT IT SEEMS I MUST CROSS THE NORTH SEA FOR IT.

?

THORFINN, RUN AND GIVE YOUR FATHER A MESSAGE.

A WAR-SHIP IS COMING.

CRA

ANG

HUP!

FSHHHH

CLAAANG...

CLANG...

GA HA HA HA!

OH.

DRIP DRIP DRIP...

PUT SOME WATER IN THERE.

HOW'S THAT, BOSS?

THAT NASTY HOLE SHOULD BE PATCHED FOR GOOD.

FATHERRR!

YOU'RE PUTTING TOO MUCH STRENGTH INTO IT, THORS.

THIS SMITHING IS TRICKY WORK.

?!

A REALLY *HUGE* ONE! BIGGER THAN HALF-DAN'S!!

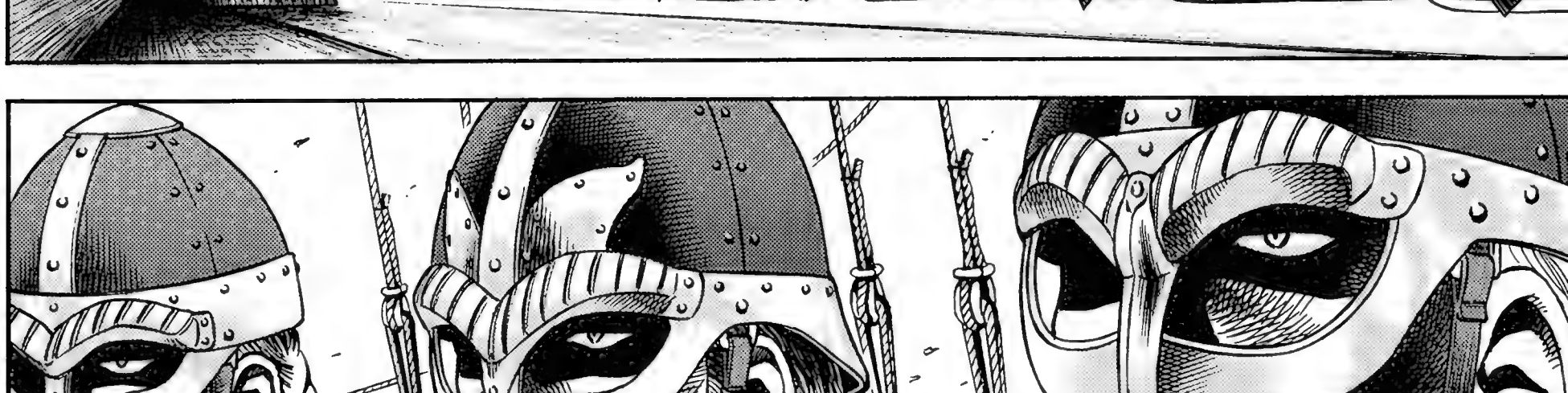
IT'S ANOTHER WARSHIP !!

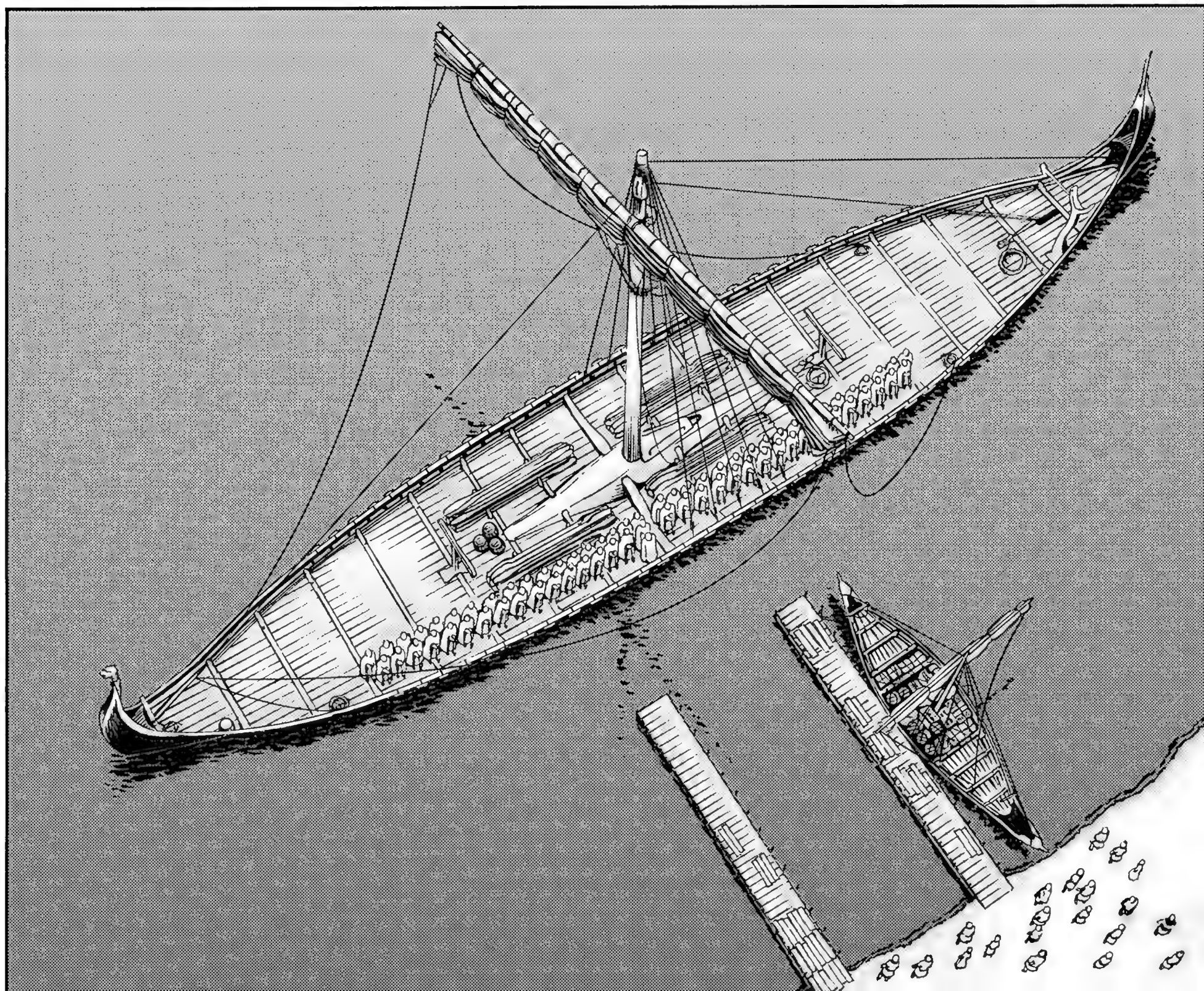
I'M RIGHT HERE, THOR-FINN.

OH.

THERE!!

TEK TEK TEK





THEY DEMANDED "THORS THE TROLL," AND HAVEN'T SPOKEN ANOTHER WORD...

THEY'RE A FAR CRY FROM HALFDAN'S GANG OF RUFFIANS.

THAT'S NOT YOUR ORDINARY RAIDING BAND.

MURMUR... MURMUR...

WHEN THEY SAY THORS, DO THEY MEAN... *OUR* THORS?

A *TROLL*?

WAR-RIORS OF JOM! I AM RIGHT HERE!

AHA! THORS!

WH-WHAT SHOULD WE DO?! WHAT IF THEY ATTACK THE VILLA-

ZSH...

AVAVAVAVAVAVAVA!

SWI

SH

STOMP

ZSHH...

THEY BOWED TO THORS...

WHOA.

MURMUR

HH

HH

I NEVER THOUGHT YOU'D FOLLOW ME ALL THE WAY TO ICELAND...

...FLOKI.

...

STATE YOUR BUSI-NESS, FLOKI.

...A MAN LIKE YOU, HIDING AT THE ENDS OF THE EARTH HERE...

IT'S HARD TO IMAG-INE...

I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU SINCE THAT NORWEGIAN EXPEDITION, THORS.

...FIRST, PERMIS-SION TO DISEM-BARK.

IN THAT CASE...

...

NOW THIS MAKES ME MIGHTY CURIOUS...

WHO *IS* THORS, ANY-WAY...?

HE'S NEVER BEEN ONE TO TALK ABOUT HIMSELF, AFTER ALL.

HEY! I WANNA SEE!

I ALWAYS HEARD HE'D SEEN HIS SHARE OF BATTLE IN HIS YOUTH...

HE MUST HAVE BEEN QUITE THE HERO.

QUIET DOWN, ARI.

HE SAID SOMETHING ABOUT "WARRIORS OF JOM." ANYONE KNOW WHAT THAT IS?

NOT ME...

...ANGRY ABOUT SOME-THING?

IS FATH-ER...

...

FURTHER-MORE...

COUNTLESS DANES IN THE DANELAW HAVE BEEN MURDERED BY THE ENGLISH.

FROM THE SURVIVORS' TESTIMONY, IT SEEMS THIS WAS A SURPRISE ATTACK, CARRIED OUT DURING BATHING TIME.

...

...IT'S SAID THAT AMONG THE SLAUGHTERED WAS PRINCESS GUNHILDE, SISTER TO KING SWEYN OF DENMARK.

AND NOW THE KING HAS THE PERFECT PRE-TEXT-

AVENGING THE DEATH OF HIS SISTER.

A GREAT WAR IS BREWING, THORS.

THIS IS WHERE ***WE*** COME IN.

WE JOMS-VIKINGS WILL BE JOINING THE DANISH SIDE.

THE ENTIRE FLEET IS AMASSING AS WE SPEAK.

AN INVASION OF ENGLAND WILL BE UNDERWAY BY THE COMING SPRING.

WAR!!

SHH!

THIS IS A TINY VILLAGE IN ICELAND, FAR NORTH OF THE CIVILIZED WORLD.

THE MATTERS OF GREAT KINGDOMS ACROSS THE SEA ARE NONE OF OUR CONCERN.

DO AS YOU WISH.

THAT'S NOT QUITE TRUE, I'M AFRAID.

CHIEF SIG-VALDI HAS ORDERED ALL FORCES...

...TO RETURN TO JOMSBORG FOR FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS.

NO MAN IS EXCEPTED. *NONE.*

WHETHER HE BE ACTIVE...

...OR *DESERTER*...

...?

DE-SERTER ...?

THORS THE TROLL...

...JOMS-VIKING CAPTAIN.

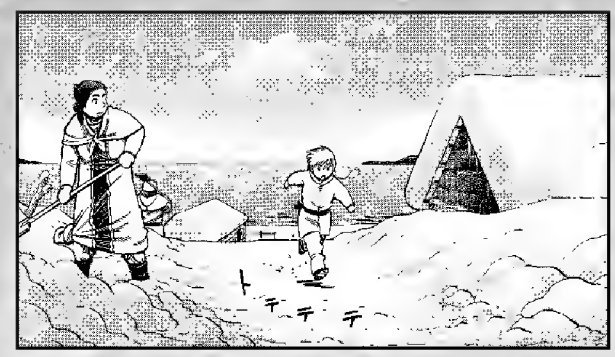
YOUR PARTICIPATION IS REQUIRED ...

...IN THIS COMING BATTLE.

CHAPTER 5 - END

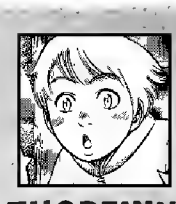
VINLAND SAGA MAP

THORFINN'S TRAVELS



THORFINN'S HOME VILLAGE

Halfdan's village is a peaceful land beyond the mountains and far from the fires of war.



THORFINN

THORS

HALFDAN

Iceland (Reykjavik)

Sea of Norway

Areas under Viking control

Faroes

Shetland

Norway

Oslo

Sweden

Gulf of Bothnia

Finland

Lake Ladoga

Gulf of Finland

Baltic Sea

Denmark

North Sea

England

Ireland

Danelaw

Wales

London

Thames R.

Atlantic Ocean

Rhine R.

Weser R.

Elbe R.

Oder R.

Vistula R.

W. Dvina R.

Normandy

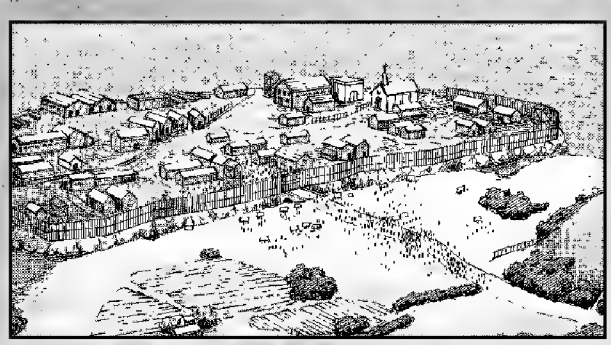
Seine R.

Paris

Francia

Thorfinn's Travels

Loire R.

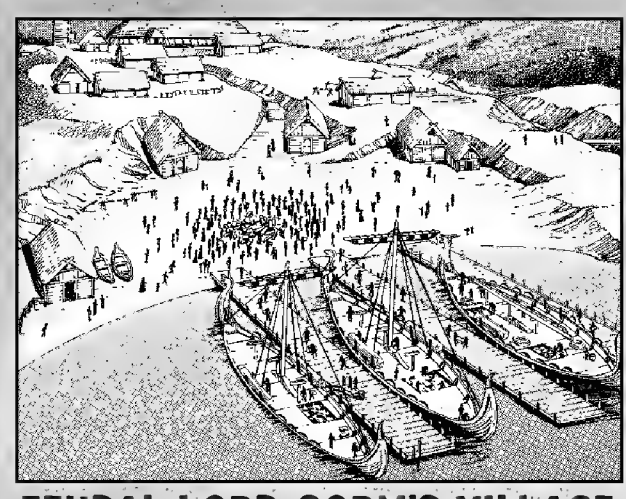


HOME TOWN OF A LOCAL FRANKISH CLAN

A large, well-protected fortress on the shores of a lake. General Jabbathe led an army of the same Frank tribe against the town.

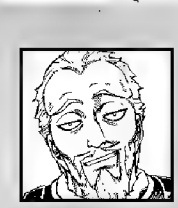
FORTRESS ARMY COMMANDER

GENERAL JABBATHE



FEUDAL LORD GORM'S VILLAGE

Askeladd's home base during winter. Ordinarily, Vikings tend to fields when they are not out raiding, but Askeladd's group are complete mercenaries and do nothing but fight for a living.



ASKELADD

GORM

VINLAND
SAGA

CHAPTER 6: MESSENGER FROM THE BATTLEFIELD

SNAP

POP...

...

THORS...

I SHOULD BE CLEAR. THE CHIEF IS MAKING YOU A VERY MERCIFUL OFFER.

THORS THE "TROLL OF JOM," POWERFUL AND RENOWNED JOMSVIKING CAPTAIN...

...ONCE THOUGHT *MISSING IN BATTLE* AFTER A NAVAL SKIRMISH IN THE NORWEGIAN SEA FIFTEEN YEARS AGO...

...MAKES HIS TRIUM-PHANT RETURN TO THE FOLD TODAY.

THIS IS THE *OFFICIAL* STORY BEING OFFERED TO YOU.

NO FURTHER QUES-TIONS ASKED OR REQUIRED.

THIS SHOULD MAKE IT QUITE CLEAR...

...HOW MUCH CHIEF SIGVALDI VALUES YOUR SKILL.

YOU DID NOT NEED TO BRING A LONGSHIP JUST TO TELL ME THAT.

YOU'VE UNSETTLED THE VILLAGERS.

?

YOU *HAVE* CHANGED.

I'D NEVER HAVE IMAGINED THE OLD THORS SAYING THAT...

...HA HA...

EEEK!

RUN FOR YOUR LIFE!

HE LOOKS LIKE A MON-STER!

HA HA HA!

AH.

CRAP.

RUN FOR IT!

OR PERHAPS IT IS THIS VILLAGE THAT CHANGED YOU.

TWITCH...

THIS IS A GOOD AND PEACEFUL PLACE. THE CHILDREN SPEAK TO THAT ON THEIR OWN.

NO DOUBT WAR HAS NEVER TOUCHED THIS VILLAGE.

RAAAHHH

HE SAID WE'RE GOING TO INVADE ENGLAND!!

WHERE'S ENGLAND?

DID YOU HEAR THAT?! BRILLIANT!! A REAL BATTLE!!

I'VE NEVER BEEN IN A BATTLE BEFORE!!

HA HA HA HA

...

YOUR PA MUST BE SOME-THING SPECIAL!

CAN YOU BELIEVE IT? THEY SAILED ALL THE WAY ACROSS THE SEA JUST TO RECRUIT THORS!

THUD

IN THAT CASE, I'LL PASS THE TEST.

NONE OF YOU HAVE EVER CUT A MAN DOWN, HAVE YOU? WELL, THAT'S WHAT SEPARATES THE-

OH, BIG TALK COMING FROM SOMEONE WHO'S NO BETTER THAN ME!

I GUESS THEY'D ONLY TAKE HARDENED WARRIORS.

BUT DO YOU REALLY THINK THEY'LL TAKE US WITH THEM?

WELL, NOT A WEAK-LING LIKE YOU.

OOPS, SORRY ...

FALTER...

...

IF YOU REFUSE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE COMING BATTLE...

...MY MISSION WILL FAIL AND THE CHIEF WILL LOSE FACE.

THIS IS NOT A CHILD'S ERRAND.

ZMM

ZMM

ZMM

I CANNOT AFFORD TO GO HOME EMPTY-HANDED AFTER SUCH AN INSULT.

YOU UNDER-STAND WHAT I MEAN.

ZSH

ZSH

ZSH

ZMM

ZMM

ZMM

A COMPANY OF WARRIORS BASED OUT OF JOMSBORG, A PORT FAR TO THE EAST, IN WENDLAND.

THE JOMSVIKINGS.

DID YOU KNOW ABOUT THIS, THORFINN?

SO IT TURNS OUT THORS *WAS* ONCE A JOMS-VIKING.

NO.

SO STRONG, IN FACT, THE KING OF WENDLAND IS UNABLE TO LEVY ANY TAXES UPON THEM.

THEY PRIDE THEMSELVES ON BEING THE MIGHT-IEST MEN IN THE NORTH SEA.

ARE THEY STRONG ?

VERY.

ALL MEN BACK ON THE SHIP!!

WITH-DRAW !!

HE SOUNDS PISSED.

?

WHAT WAS THAT ?

ZMM ZMM ZMM

TSK.

WITH-DRAW !!

ZSH ZSH ZSH ZSH

HEED MY WORDS, VILLAGERS!

I AM CHARGED WITH RECRUITING THE HERO THORS SNORRESSON INTO OUR BAND!

I AM FLOKI OF THE JOMS-VIKINGS!

THORS HAS GRACIOUSLY HEEDED OUR CALL, AND WILL BE PROVIDING A LONGSHIP OF HIS OWN!

OOOHH

OOOHH

MURMUR

HERO ...

ANY WHO WOULD DARE MAY TRAVEL TO JOMSBORG WITH THORS!

FSHH

...

FARE-WELL, THORS!

MAY WE MEET AGAIN IN BATTLE!

IIIIIIIIIT'S...

SHIVER

WHOOSH

...WAR!!

RAAAH

YAVAN

IT'S EVERY MAN'S CALLING TO DIE ON THE FIELD OF BATTLE!

I'M GONNA KILL ME SOME ENGLISH-MEN!!

HAHAHA!

HOW MANY DECADES HAS IT BEEN...?

DON'T TELL ME *YOU'RE* GOING, GRAND-FATHER!!

RAHHH

ZSH...

THAT SETTLES IT! WE'VE GOT TO PREPARE FOR THE VOYAGE TOMOR-ROW!!

TIME TO GET BUSY!

SNAP

POP...

COULDN'T YOU HAVE SIMPLY...

...SAID NO, THORS?

...

...

I'VE INVOLVED THE VILLAGE IN THIS MADNESS...

...YEARS AGO...

...I MADE A LIVING BY MURDER AND DEATH.

BUT, ONE DAY...

ONE DAY... I NO LONGER WANTED ANY PART OF IT.

I WAS TIRED OF KILLING.

TIRED OF DEATH.

SO I RAN AWAY.

I LEFT THE BATTLE-FIELD.

I THOUGHT I HAD SUCCESS-FULLY FAKED MY DEATH, AS FAR AS THEY KNEW.

THE JOMS-VIKINGS DO NOT SUFFER DESERT-ERS.

IF I RUN THIS TIME, THE VILLAGE WILL PAY A BITTER COST.

COULDN'T YOU JUST DO IT AGAIN...?

GLUG

BE-SIDES...

...WHERE WOULD I GO?

THE TIME HAS COME...

...FOR ME TO FACE MY PAST.

GET READY TO PULL!

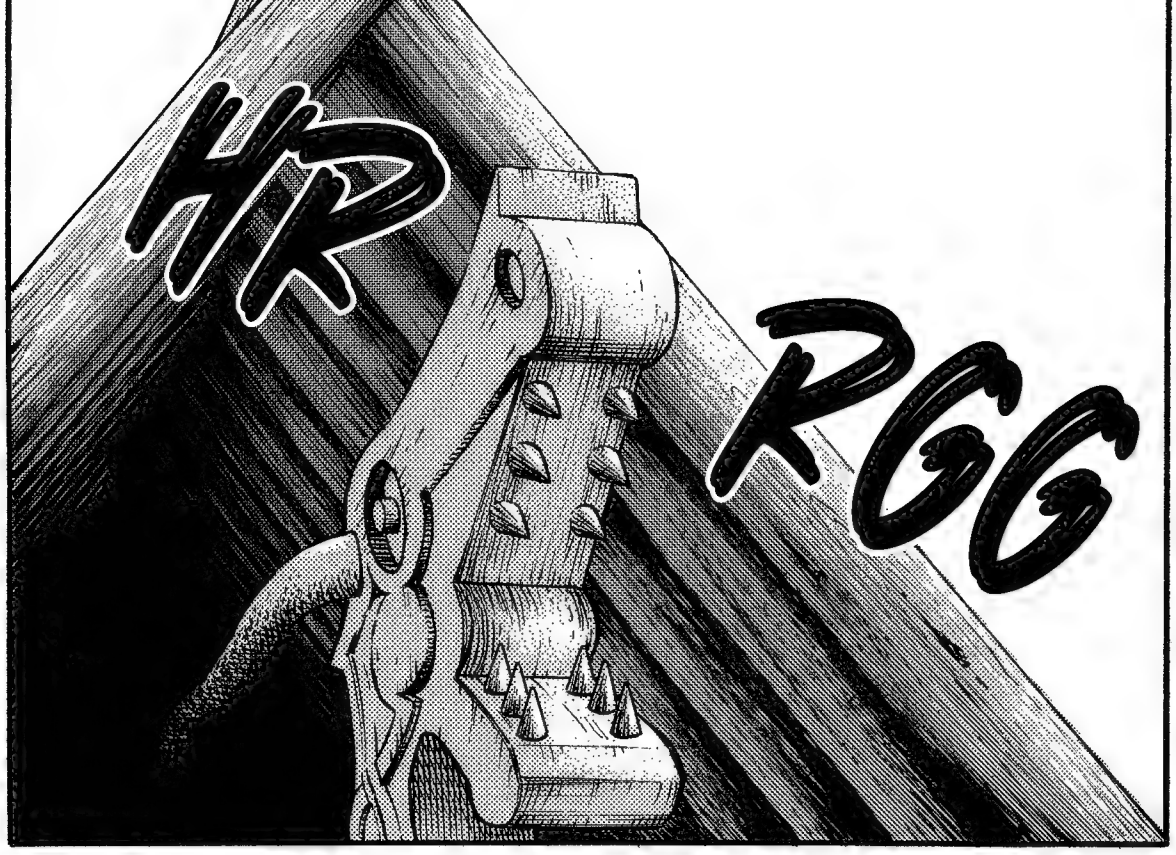
ALL RIGHT!

ALL SET!

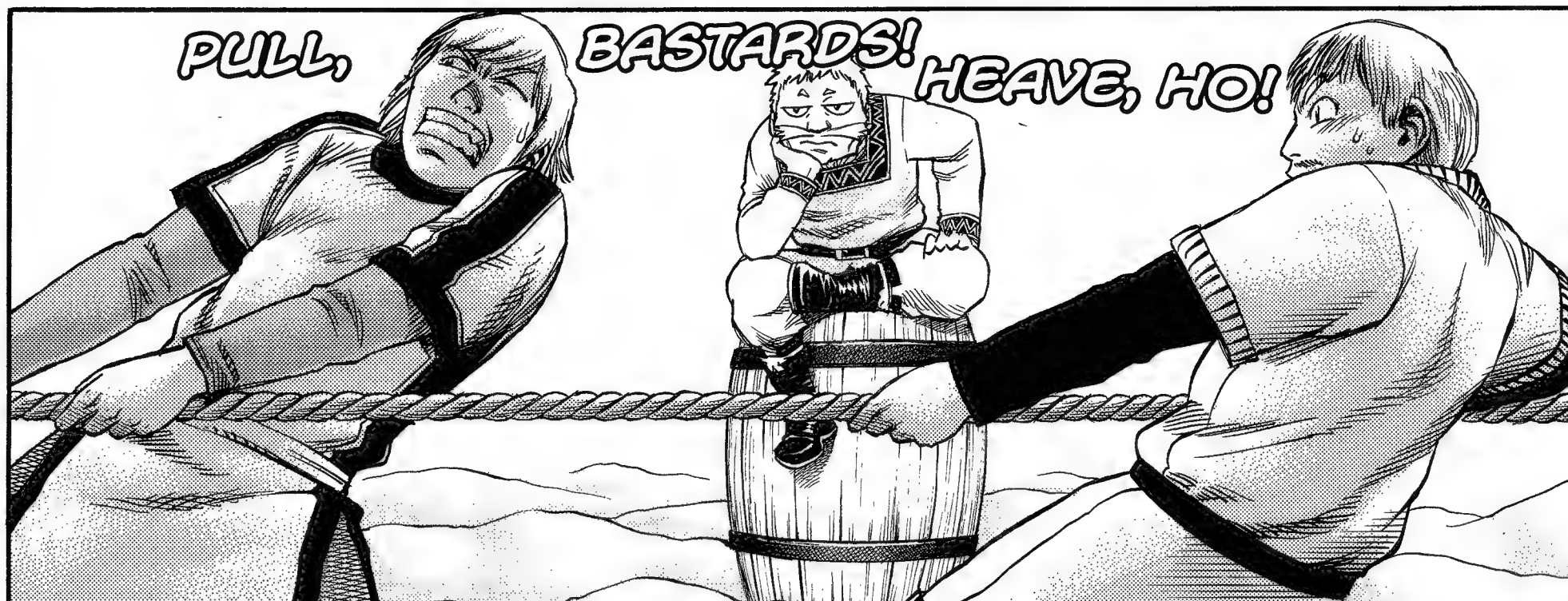
HEAVE...

...HO!!

SANK


HR
RGG

GRR


PULL,
BASTARDS!
HEAVE, HO!

THORS ASKED FOR A CHANGE IN PLANS.

I'LL BE ACCOMPA-NYING HIS WARSHIP ON THE TRIP.

HRR-RGG

WEREN'T YOU LEAVING TODAY?

HEAVE-HO!

ER, LEIF?

MUCH OBLIGED.

WON-DERFUL TO HEAR.

AND IF THINGS GET HAIRY, *WE'LL* BE THERE TO WATCH YOUR BACK.

YEP.

AH YES, I SEE.

THAT'LL MAKE FOR A SAFER JOURNEY.

RRG

GGGGG

HHHHHH

HEAVE, HO!

...AND THEIR EXCITE-MENT FOR BATTLE?

WHAT IS WITH THESE FOLKS ...

PULL! PULL!

WHAT'S THE MATTER? AREN'T YOU PLAYING WITH THE OTHERS?

FAXI?

TRUDGE...

RRAAHH

GEEZ, THORFINN'S GOING CRAZY!

SUR-ROUND HIM!

AAAH!!

RAAHHHH

TAKE THIS!

CRAKK

WAAAH

IT HURTS!

UNGH...

I KILLED THOR-FINN!

I GOT HIM! I GOT HIM!!

OOOOH

GWUH!

YOU VILE DOG!!

FOLLOW THE RULES!

HEY! YOU'RE S'POSED TO BE DEAD, THORFINN !!

HE JUST KILLED YOU FAIR AND SQUARE!!

BOOOO!

I KI...

WHA-?!

WHAT'S WRONG WITH HIM?!

WHAK

A-ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!

DON'T WALK AWAY, THOR-FINN!!

YIKES!

AAAGH

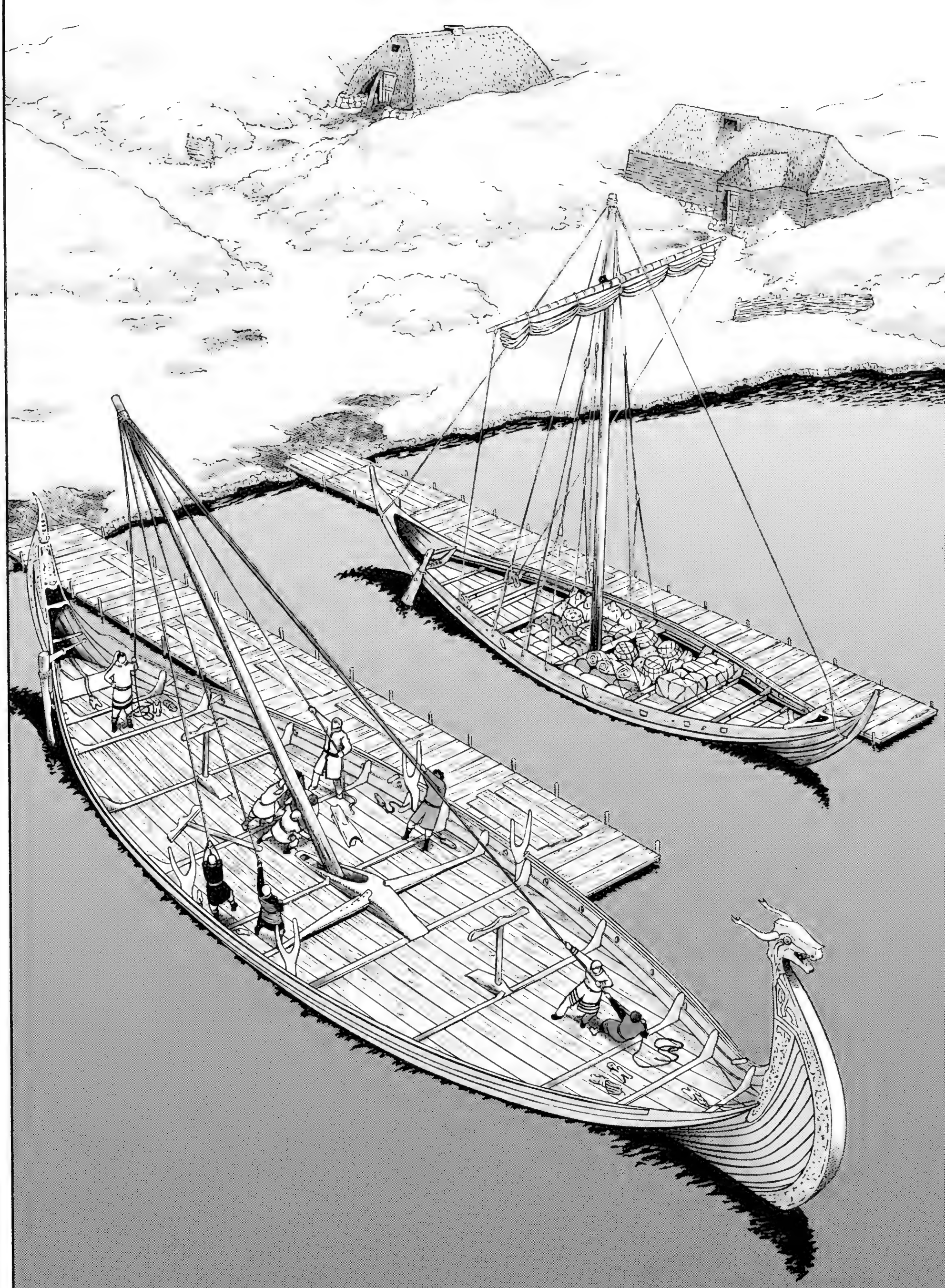
IT HURTS!

...

RUB

CHAPTER 6 - END

NOW PULL! RAISE MAST !!
ONE...
TWO...
GRRGRGGHHH
THREE!
NRRAHHH



CHAPTER 7: SWORD

AHOY!
THORS!
TIGHTEN IT DOWN!
THE STAND-ING LINE'S LOOSE, IT WON'T HOLD UP THE PROW!
URGH...
CAN YOU TAKE A LOOK AT THE BOY?
BUT HE'S IN A LOT OF PAIN. I THINK IT MIGHT BE THE BONE.
OH, THE KIDS WERE JUST PLAYING WAR LIKE ALWAYS.
WHAT IS IT? DID YOU HAVE A FIGHT?

ARE YOU OKAY?

YEP, IT'S BRO-KEN.

THIS IS TOO ROUGH FOR CHILD'S PLAY.

AAAH!!

THANKS, THORS. YOU'RE THE BEST PERSON TO TURN TO FOR THIS SORT OF THING.

WELL, I'VE WRAPPED HIM UP GOOD. KEEP IT ON A SPLINT FOR A MONTH OR SO.

HE'S NO FUN TO PLAY WITH! HE WON'T FOLLOW THE RULES, AND HE WON'T GO EASY ON ANYONE!

WE'RE NOT GONNA LET HIM PLAY WITH US ANY-MORE!!

THOR-FINN DID IT!!

HA HA HA!

M-MY APOLO-GIES. I'LL SCOLD HIM WELL.

OH, WHAT'S THE HARM? IT'S JUST KIDS BEING KIDS!

NOD...

IS THIS TRUE? WAS IT MY SON?

IMPRES-SIVE THOUGH, EH? STILL SIX YEARS, ISN'T HE?

AND HE'S ALREADY INCAPACITATING KIDS NEARLY TWICE HIS AGE! CAN'T WAIT TO SEE HOW HE TURNS OUT.

THE BOY'S A BORN WARRIOR!

IT HURTS ...

HIC

THAT'S YOUR BLOOD, IT IS.

...

WOO...

...HOOO!

AND IT'S REALLY ALL MINE, PA?!

THIS STUFF'S HEAVY!

WHY, JUST LOOK AT ME!

HEY, CHECK OUT MINE!

LOOK- ING GOOD, ARI!

OOH!

JUST THE PART!

YOU LOOK JUST LIKE ME AT YOUR AGE.

IT'S A FAMILY TREASURE PASSED DOWN FROM YOUR GRANDPA.

TOMOR- ROW'S YOUR FIRST RAIDING. GO AND FIGHT TO YOUR HEART'S CONTENT!

IF YOU WANT TO GET THE JOB DONE RIGHT, YOU NEED A SPEAR. NICE LONG RANGE TO IT!

THAT THING'S HUGE!

MY FAMILY HAD A POLEAXE TO USE.

THIS OLD GIRL ONCE LOPPED THE HEAD OFF A HORSE IN ONE SLICE!

...

SAYS YOU! SHALL WE FIGHT AND SEE?!

GYA HA HA HA

CLANK
CALUNK

TEK TEK TEK

DON'T JUST LEAVE YOUR THINGS ALL OVER THE PLACE!!

HEY! ARE YOU LISTEN-ING TO ME, THOR-FINN?!

OH, HONESTLY! WHAT ARE YOU DOING ?!

I DON'T NEED IT ANY-MORE.

GO AHEAD.

IF YOU DON'T CLEAN UP YOUR TOYS, I'LL THROW THIS ONE OUT! YOU WANT THAT?

RUSTLE
CLUNK

TOSS

KTHUNK
CLONK

WHY ARE YOU TURNING THE STOREROOM INSIDE OUT?

WHERE'S OUR WEAPONS?

HUH?

WEAPONS?

I NEED A WEAPON.

IF I GET ONE...

THUMP

CLONK

...

LET ME GUESS.

YOU'RE THINKING, "YIPPEE, I'M GONNA BE A WARRIOR AND RIDE ON FATHER'S SHIP! ♪"

CRAASH

YOU'RE JUST A LITTLE BOY. NO AMOUNT OF PLEADING OR SHOWING OFF IS GOING TO CHANGE THE FACTS.

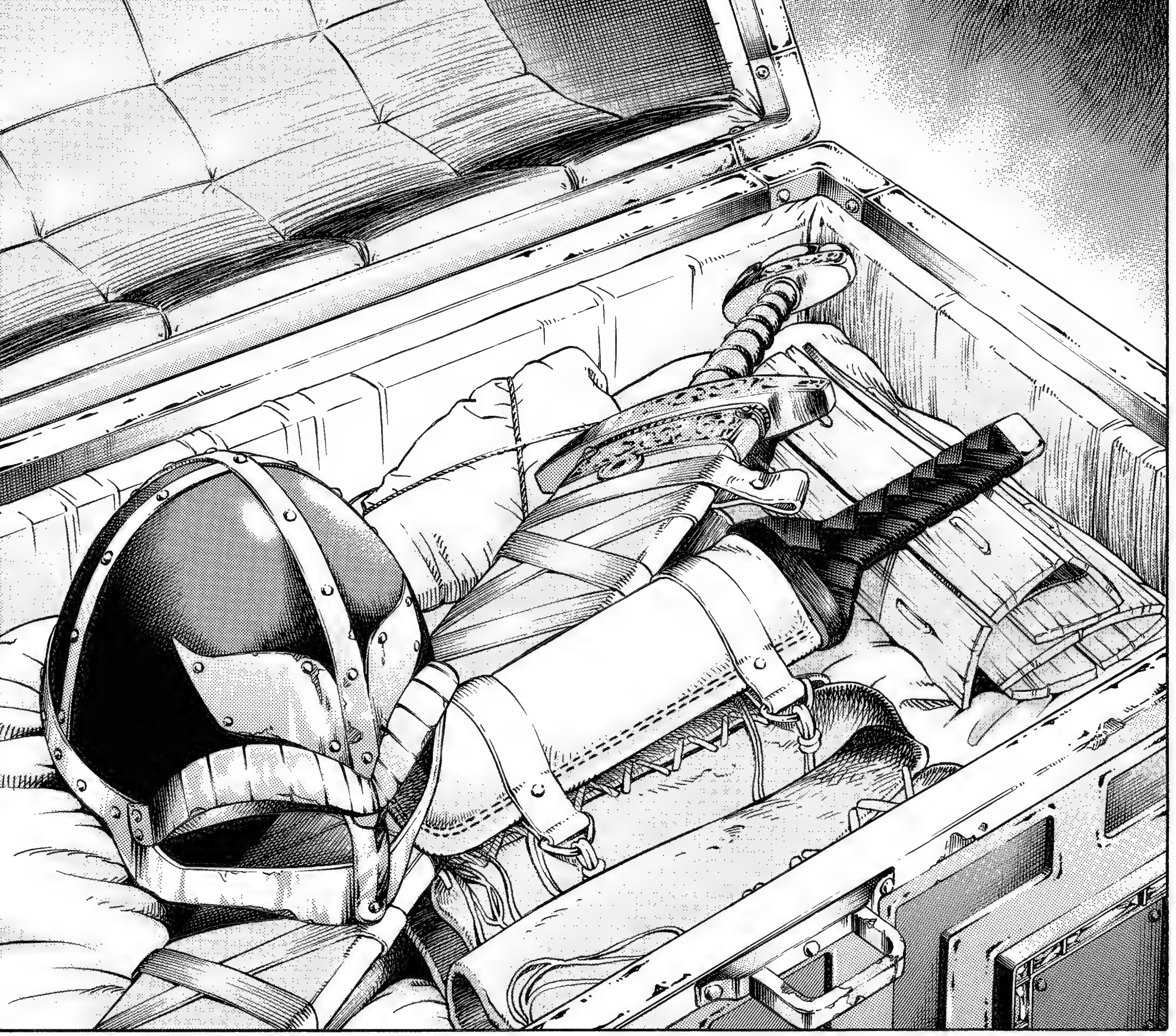
DON'T WASTE YOUR TIME.

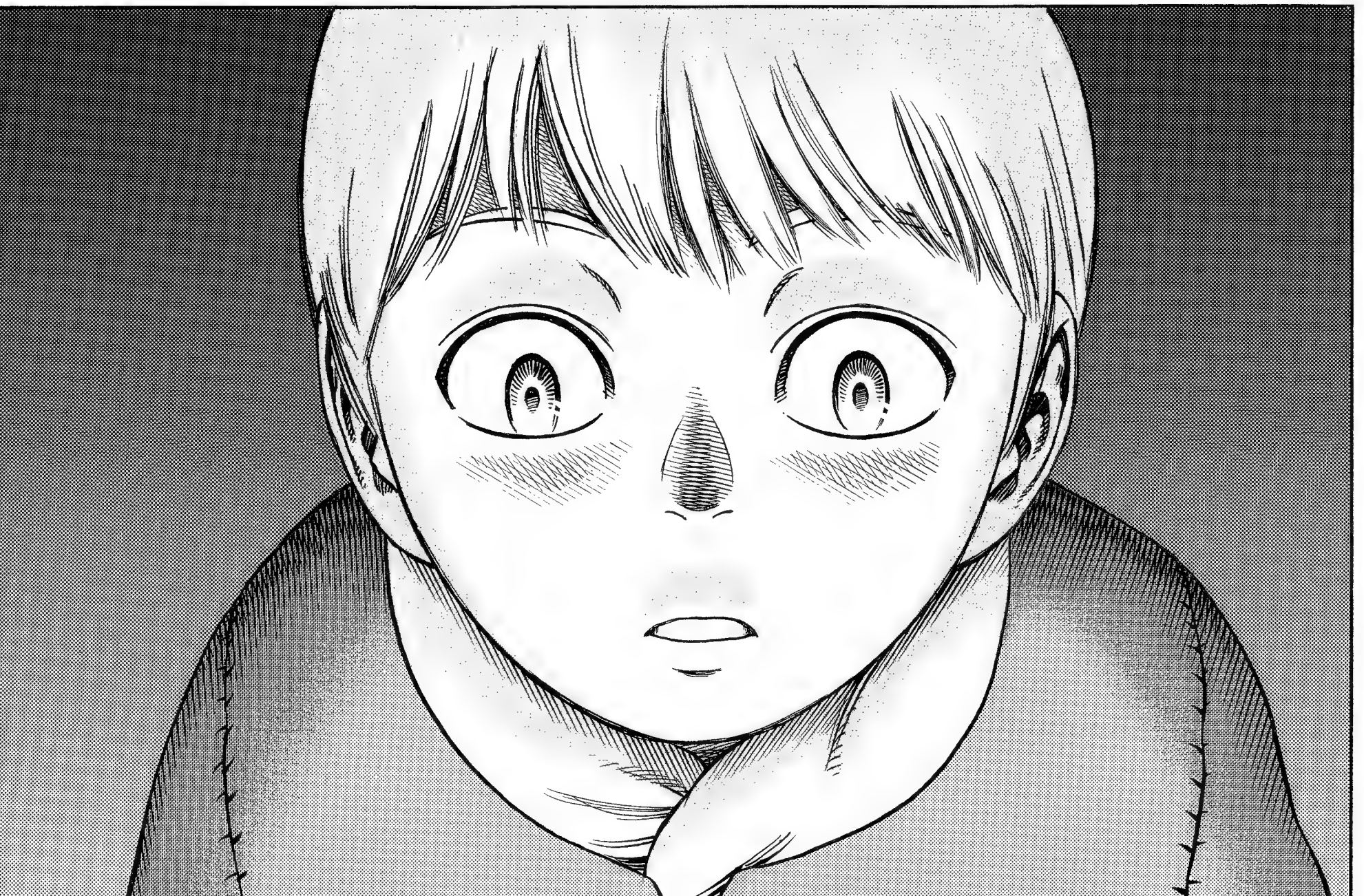
RUSTLE

GREAK

CR RR

RK





ZSHH...

SLIDE

SHINNNG

IT'S PRETTY...

AH...

I DIDN'T SEE ANY-THING...

SNEAK...

HM?

WHAT IS IT, YLVA?

CREAK

A SWORD IS A TOOL FOR KILLING.

DO YOU WANT A SWORD...

...THOR-FINN?

WHO ARE YOU GOING...

...TO KILL WITH THIS SWORD?

...

E-

ENE-MIES...

AND WHO IS YOUR ENEMY?

LISTEN TO ME, THORFINN.

...H...

HALF-DAN... MAYBE...

YOU HAVE NO ENEMIES.

NO ONE...

...HAS ANY ENEMIES.

THERE IS NO ONE...

...THAT YOU SHOULD HURT.

...

TH...

THAT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE...

YOU'RE GOING OFF TO BATTLE TOMOR-ROW!

YOU'RE GOING TO KILL ENEMIES!!

!

SMACK

DON'T TREAT ME LIKE A *CHILD*!!

EVEN *I* CAN TELL WHEN YOU'RE LYING TO ME!

HA HA HA HA

CLANG CLINK

THOR-FINN!!

GYA HA HA HA HA HA

WATCH OUT, YOU FOOLS!

HEY, I'M BLEEDING!

EAT THAT!

BWA HA HA!

SHH...

HELGA...

I KNOW.

TIE

DRIP DRIP

RAISE OUR SON WELL.

CHAPTER 7 - END

THE DAY'S CLEAR.

...

THE PERFECT DAY TO SET SAIL...

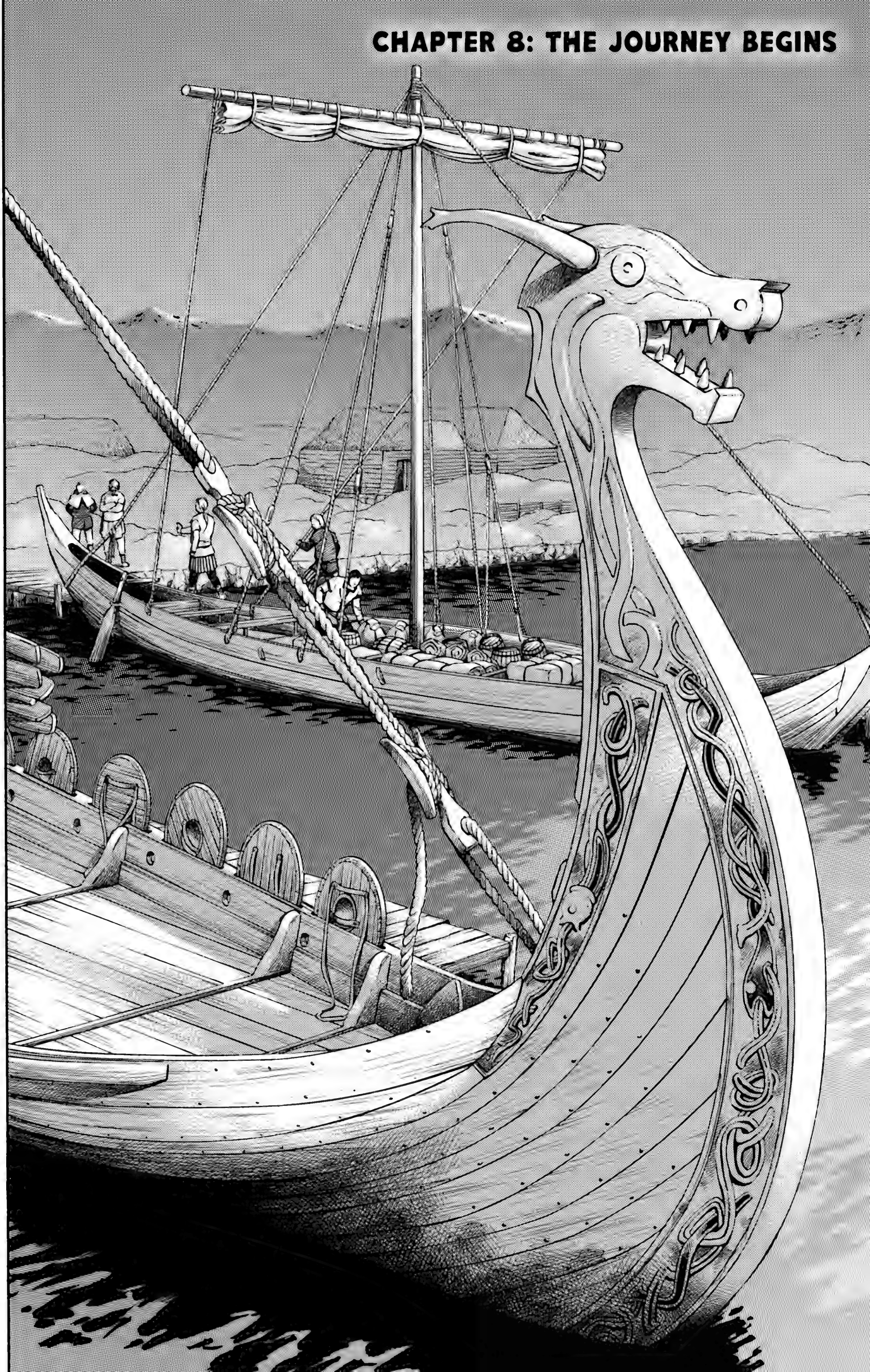
SLIGHT BREEZE FROM WEST-NORTH-WEST, GENTLE WAVES.

ODIN IS IN A FINE MOOD THIS MORNING.

...

YES...

CHAPTER 8: THE JOURNEY BEGINS



THE TIME HAS COME FOR ARI, SON OF GEITR...

...TO STAND UP AND BE A MAN.

NO, YLVA, I KNOW. DON'T SAY IT.

IT WILL NOT BE AN EASY VOYAGE.

THERE'S NO GUARANTEE THAT EVEN A WARRIOR OF MY STATURE WILL COME HOME UNHARMED.

BUT RETURN I *WILL!*

AND I WILL BRING YOU A BEAUTIFUL NECKLACE PLUNDERED FROM ENGLAND!

UMM...

CAN I GO BACK TO SLEEP NOW...?

HELLO?

YAWWWN...

AND WHEN I DO, WILL YOU... ERM...

MA-

MA-MARRY...

ARIII!!

WHEN ARE YOU GOING TO GET YOUR MIND STRAIGHT, YOU SILLY BOY?

YOU NEARLY FORGOT IT.

I PACKED YOU A LUNCH!

OKAY, MA!! SHEESH, NOW GET OUTTA HERE!

AND DON'T FORGET TO EAT YOUR ONIONS.

THERE'S PLENTY OF SALTED HERRING, SO SHARE WITH THE OTHERS.

WE'LL CONTINUE THIS CONVERSATION WHEN I GET BACK.

PROMISE YOU'LL WAIT FOR ME, YLVA.

HOW CAN YOU SPEAK TO YOUR OWN MOTHER THAT WAY?!

YLVA!

WELL, I HOPE HE DOESN'T GET HIMSELF KILLED...

OH...

RIGHT, THEY LEAVE TODAY...

HEY, YLVA!

HANG ON, I'M FIRST!

COULD YOU TRY SOME-ONE ELSE?

I SWEAR, AM I THE ONLY YOUNG WOMAN IN TOWN?

D-DO YOU HAVE A MINUTE?

I'D LIKE TO TALK...

WA HA HA HA!

RAHHH

THATTABOY!

...I WILL BRING HOME A GIANT BARREL FULL OF GOLD COINS!

ON MY GRAND-FATHER'S AXE, I SWEAR...

I KNOW, MAMA, I KNOW.

AND REMEMBER TO BATHE YOURSELF ON SATURDAY, MY SON.

MAKE SURE YOU GET ENOUGH TO EAT!

RAHHHH

BEST OF LUCK!

ONLY FIVE? IT'S NOT MUCH OF A FORCE.

I DON'T KNOW...

LOOK AT OUR BOYS, READY FOR BATTLE!

TRUE, BUT WHO ARE WE TO QUESTION HIM?

BUT IT'S BARELY ENOUGH MEN TO MOVE A SHIP.

HMMM ...

HE WOULD KNOW, SO IF HE SAYS SO...

WELL, THORS SAID FIVE WAS BEST.

BETTER WATCH YOUR BACK IN BATTLE, *ARI*.

ARI!

YOU'D BE WISE TO DO THE SAME, *MORD*.

RAHH H

SHOVE IT, LOSER.

HEY, ARI.

YOU KEEP YOUR STINKING MEAT-HOOKS OFF HER, MORD.

THE HELL WERE YOU TALKING ABOUT WITH YLVA?

U-UM...

BE...

BE CARE-FUL OUT THERE...

FLINCH

WHAT ?!

I'D LIKE TO SEE YOU TRY!

I'LL CUT OFF YOUR UGLY HEAD!

?

SURE.

WOR-RIED ABOUT ARI?

I'LL LET YOU IN ON A LITTLE SECRET.

HUH?

BA-THUMP

BOO

EEEK!!

YOUNG MISS.

KEEP IT A SECRET.

SHHH!

WHAT?!

THEY'RE NOT GOING TO BATTLE ?!

WHISPER WHISPER WHISPER

HMM AHH

THORS IS PLANNING TO LEAVE THE YOUNGSTERS BEHIND WHEN WE LAND.

WE'LL SWING BY NORWAY ON THE WAY TO JOMSBORG.

...ONCE I'VE CONCLUDED MY BUSINESS, I'LL BRING BACK THE LADS WITH ME.

AND THEN ...

WHILE IN NORWAY, THORS WILL HIRE A NEW CREW FROM THE KING TO HELP HIM TRAVEL TO JOMSBORG.

I WAS FRIENDS WITH THE LAST KING, SO HE'LL HELP US.

FIVE JUST HAPPENS TO BE THE MAXIMUM NUMBER I CAN FERRY BACK TO ICELAND IN MY LITTLE SHIP.

BESIDES, HOW CAN YOU HAVE A BATTLE WITH ONLY FIVE MEN?

...

THORS WON'T TAKE A SINGLE ONE OF THEM TO ENGLAND.

THAT'S JUST THE KIND OF MAN HE IS.

THOR-FINN!!

WHERE ARE YOU, SON?!

THOR-FIIINN!!

...

?

UM... MISTER LEIF...?

DOES THAT MEAN...

...THORS IS GOING INTO BATTLE ALONE?

MAN OARS!

AYE

...

...

WHAT KIND OF OAR IS THAT...?

BA-

BOOM

HE MUST STILL BE SULKING OVER THAT SCOLDING HE GOT YESTER-DAY.

I DON'T BELIEVE THIS! *THORFINN!*

HOW CAN HE MISS SEEING HIS OWN FATHER OFF?!

TELL THOR-FINN...

...THAT...
.....
.....
...
....

ERM...
...

HELGA.

YES?

I'LL TELL HIM.

I KNOW.

WELL...
.....
.....

...GOOD.

THANKS.

SERIOUSLY?!

WHOAA ?!

EH?!

TUG

ROOOOAR !!!

DON'T JUST SIT THERE, FOOL!

ROW, ROW, ROW!!

WHAT PREPOS-TEROUS STRENGTH...

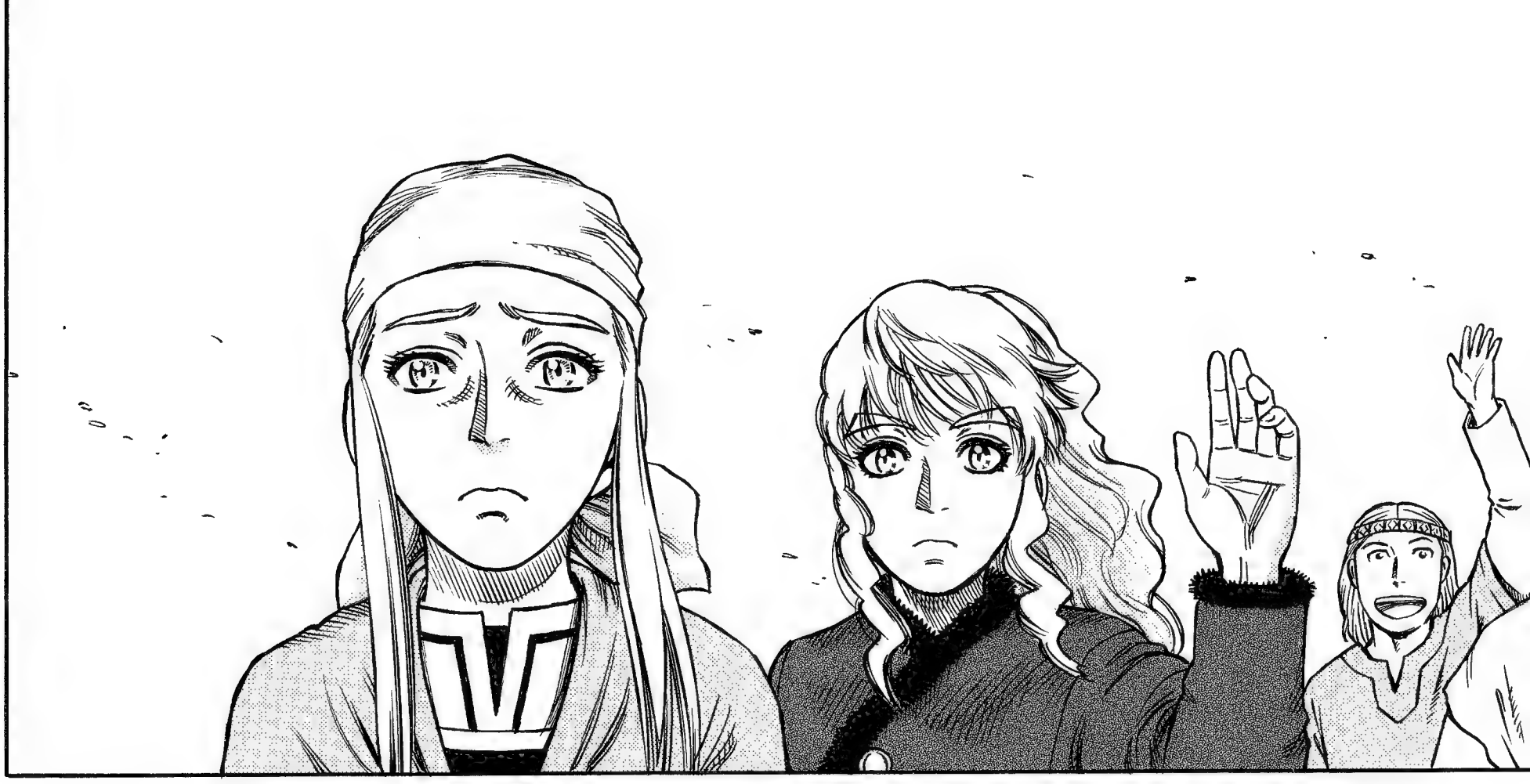
BOOM

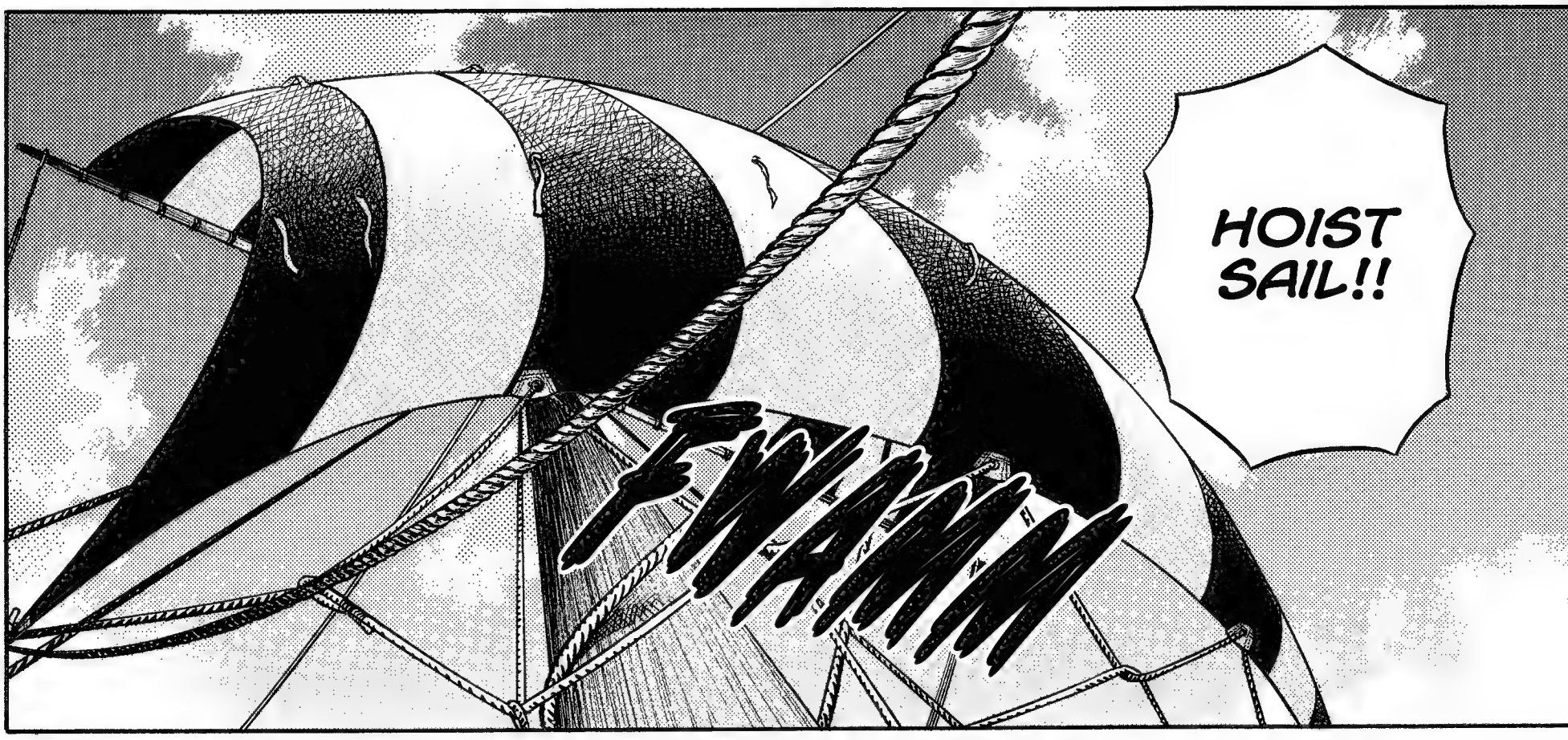
ZSHH

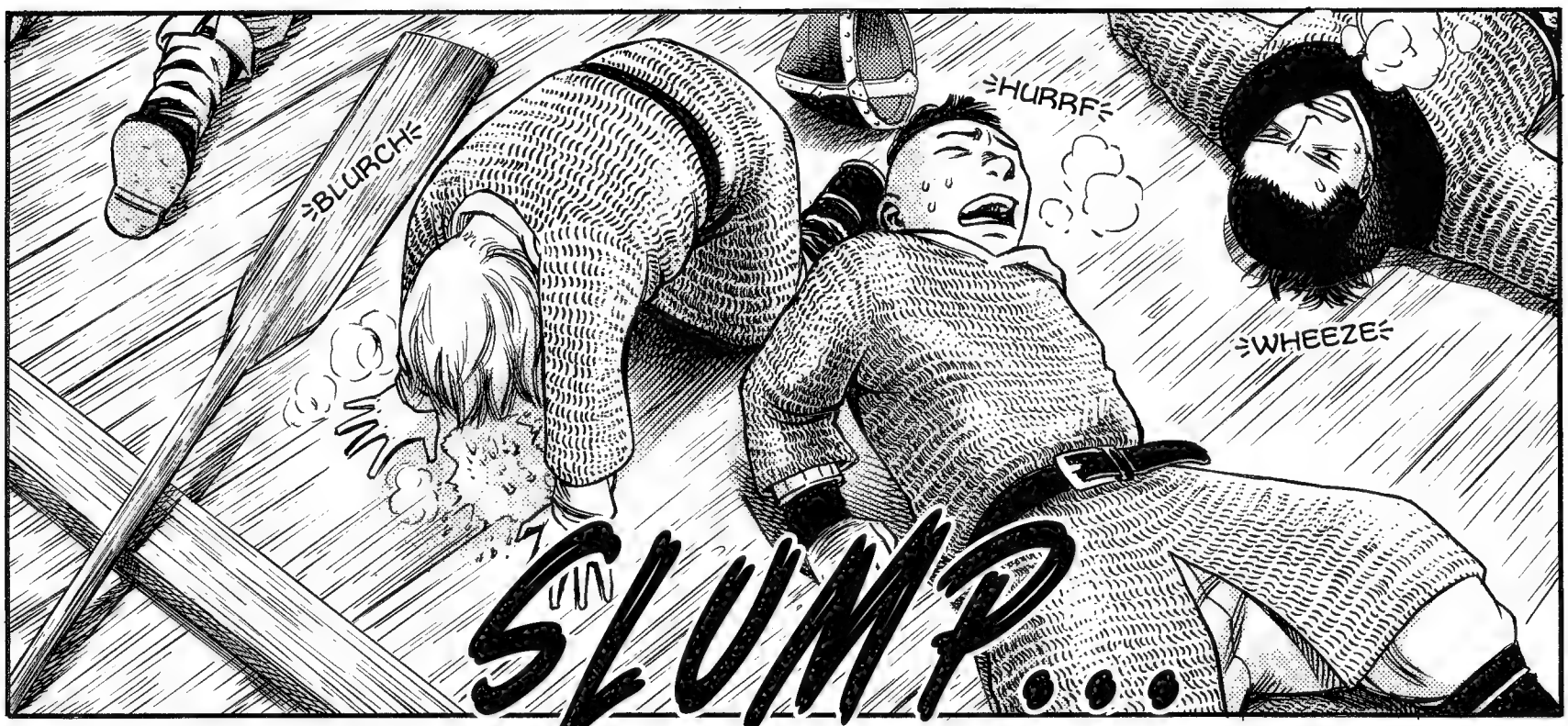
RAAHH

BRING ME SOMETHING NICE!

GOOD LUCK!




HOIST SAIL!!
FWAM


BLURCH
HURRF
WHEEZE
SLUMP...

HAKON AND GRIM, THE CROSS BEAMS.

MORD, MAGNI, ADJUST THE SAIL.

TAKE THE RUDDER FOR ME, ARI.

...

C'MON, ON YOUR FEET!

MY ARSE... MY ARSE...

WOBBLE...

URGH ...

MY HANDS ARE TORN TO SHREDS...

DON'T WORRY, WE WON'T NEED TO ROW FOR A WHILE.

WE'VE REACHED THE CURRENT, SO THE SHIP WILL TRAVEL ON ITS OWN FOR NOW.

I SUPPOSE IT DOES.

DOES THAT MEAN WE CAN'T GO BACK, FATHER?

WHAT, ARE YOU TIRED?

N... NOT AT ALL...

WOBBLE...

KTHUNK

FATHER ?!

?!

PWAP!

POP

THO...

JUST A SECOND!!

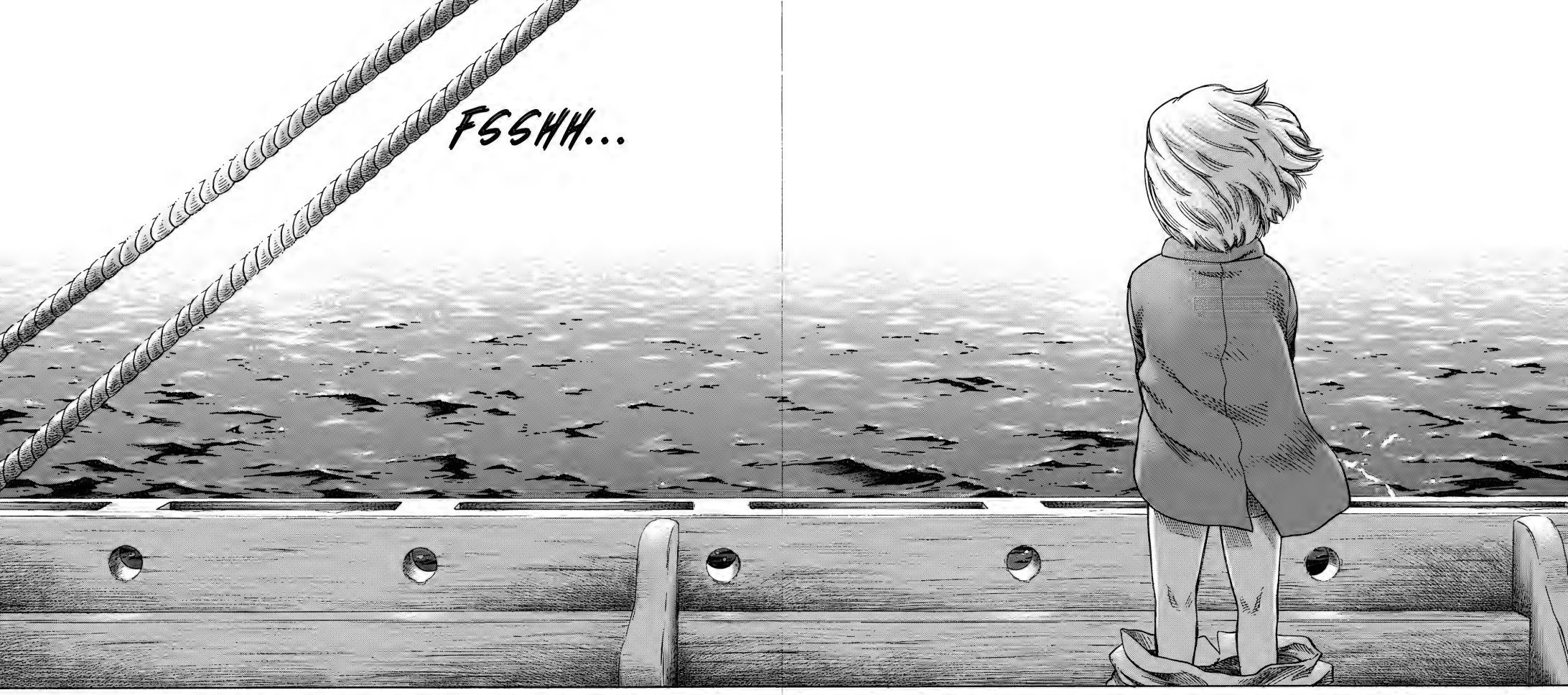
TEK TEK TEK

THOR-FINN, WHAT IN THE WORLD...?

WHEW ... JUST IN TIME...

TINKLE TINKLE

WHIZZZZ...


FSSHH...

...LITTLE... IMP...
FATHER !!
WHY... YOU...

SHIVER

TLINK...

IT'S THE SEA !!

HAH...

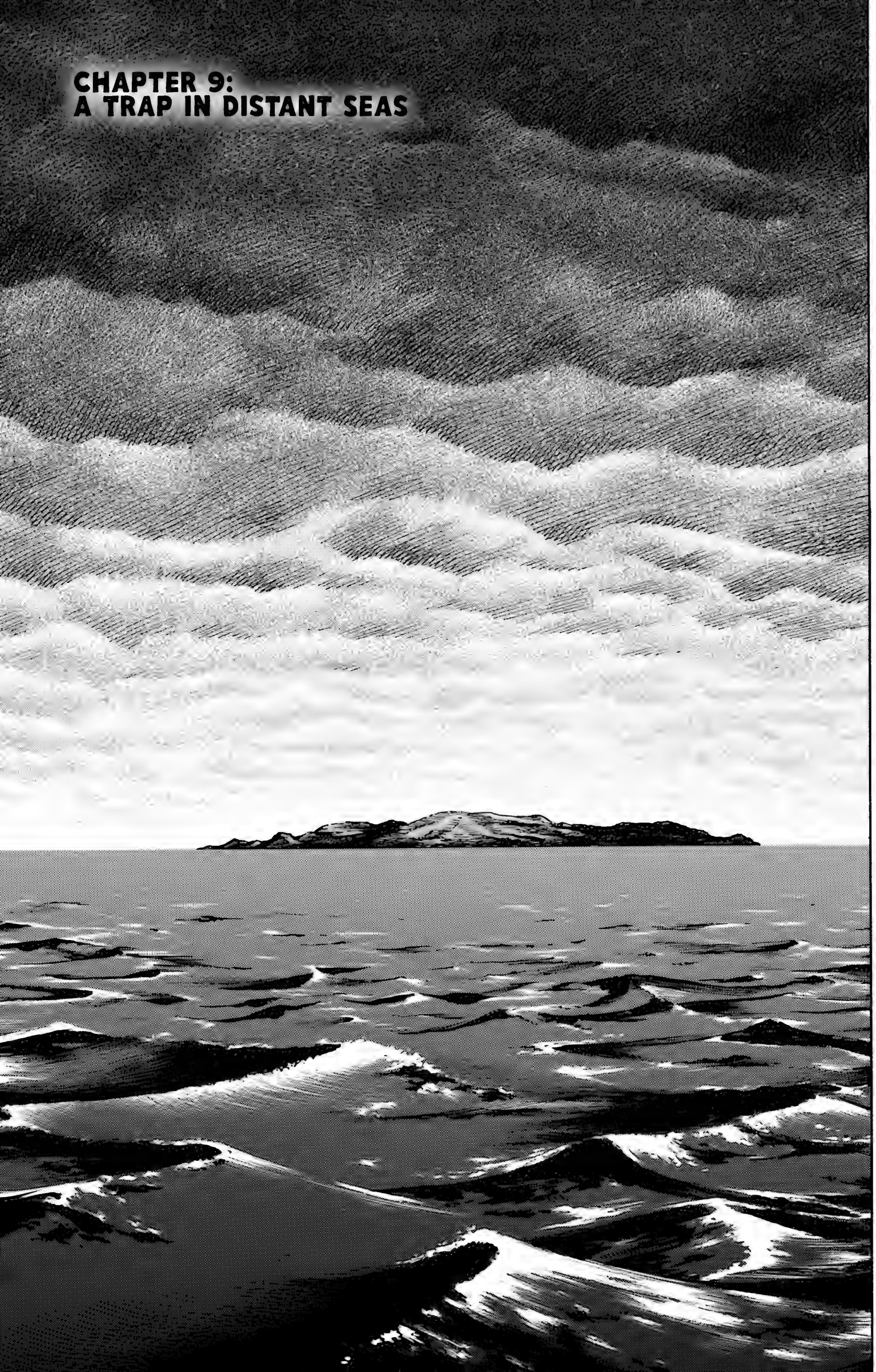
...

OH BOY...

AWAY

CHAPTER 8 - END

CHAPTER 9:
A TRAP IN DISTANT SEAS



DSHK

FSHAAA...

NORTH ATLANTIC
OCEAN
FAROE ISLANDS
STREYMOY

HUFF
HUFF
HAH
HUFF
GYA HA HA HA!
HEE HEE HEE!
HMMF...
OH, LORD...
IF YE WANT A DRINK, IT'LL COST GOLD!
AW, SHUDDUP.
LET'S SEE YOU HIT HIM FIRST!
GYA HA HA!
DE HA HA HA HA!
IF I CAN HIT HIS HEAD THROW-ING LEFT-HANDED, THAT ENTIRE BARREL'S MINE!
YOU ALL HEARD 'IM SAY IT!
BWA HA HA!
DODGE AND I'LL KILL YOU!
VMM
M
NOW, YOU LOUSY CHRIS-TIAN!

FWOOSH

RAAH!!

EEP!

MOVE, I'M NEXT.

BWA HA HA

YOU SUCK!

HEY!

YOU'RE DEAD NOW!

YOU DUCKED, YOU BASTARD!

HA!

PREPARE TO MEET YOUR MAKER, MONK!

ME NEXT, ME NEXT.

MISS, DAMN YOU!

DA HA HA HA!

I TOLDJA NOT TO DUCK!!

GA HA HA HA HA

THAT WEREN'T HIS FAULT, YOU'RE JUST TERRIBLE!

OH NO...

POOR FRIAR...

WHY NOT TAKE A BREAK AND SHARE A DRINK WITH US?

HEY! YOU JOM-FELLOWS!

AAAH!! I WAS SO CLOSE!

HA HA HA!

STEP ASIDE, IT'S TIME FOR THE MASTER TO SHOW YOU HOW IT'S DONE!

GYA HA HA HA!

GCHUNK

FORGET THEM, THEY'RE TOO GOOD TO DRINK OUR SWILL.

SO STIFF, THOSE POLEARMS MUST BE STUCK UP THEIR ARSES.

HAH!

...ASKE-LADD.

YOUR MEN ARE AS BOORISH AS EVER...

BWA HA HA!

AAAAGH

OOOH!

HOW MANY POINTS FOR A LEG?

...MASTER FLOKI.

THEY JUST DON'T CARE FOR THE CHRIS-TIANS...

LET'S TALK BUSINESS, SHALL WE?

MY MEN AND I ARE TIRED OF BEING COOPED UP IN THIS BACKWATER.

TOK

THE BROAD DETAILS HAVE NOT CHANGED.

TOK

TOK

YOUR PAY WILL BE ONE HUNDRED GOLD COINS.

NO PAY-MENT UNLESS YOU PRODUCE HIS DEAD BODY.

SHHK

HIS SHIP AND CARGO ARE YOURS TO DO WITH AS YOU PLEASE.

JUST KILL THORS.

CREAK...

THORS, EH...?

I'VE HEARD TELL OF THIS "TROLL OF JOM."

AND YOU REALLY WANT US TO KILL HIM?

I THOUGHT HE WAS A BIG HERO TO YOU FOLKS.

YAWWN

IT'S NOT THE "HERO" PART THAT HAS DOOMED HIM TO DEATH.

HE HAS FLAGRANTLY FLOUTED THE PRECEPTS OF OUR BAND.

HE DESERTED IN THE FACE OF THE ENEMY.

AND HE WAS SENTENCED TO DEATH OVER FIFTEEN YEARS AGO.

CLUNKANK

I KNEW YOU FOLKS WERE PICKY ABOUT YOUR LAWS AND ALL, BUT...

...FIFTEEN YEARS? MY GOOD-NESS.

DAMN, EMPTY.

AHHH.

THE ONLY THING IS...

HEY, IF YOU'RE GOING TO PAY US, SURE, YES, WE'LL TAKE ON THE JOB.

ER, I MEAN–

CREAK

WHY DIDN'T YOU JUST GUT HIM ON THE SPOT?

...USUALLY WHEN A GROUP SENTENCES ONE OF THEIR OWN TO DEATH, Y'KNOW, *THEY* CARRY OUT THE EXECUTION.

YOU WENT TO ICELAND TO FIND HIM, DIDN'T YOU?

I SUGGEST YOU AVOID ASKING STUPID QUESTIONS, FOR YOUR OWN SAKE.

GYA HA HA HA! WELL, HE'S DEAD NOW.

...

IT'S NO BUSINESS OF YOURS, OR YOUR FILTHY VAGA-BONDS.

ANOTHER HUNDRED COINS UP FRONT.

THEN WE'LL DO YOUR DIRTY WORK.

VERY WELL.

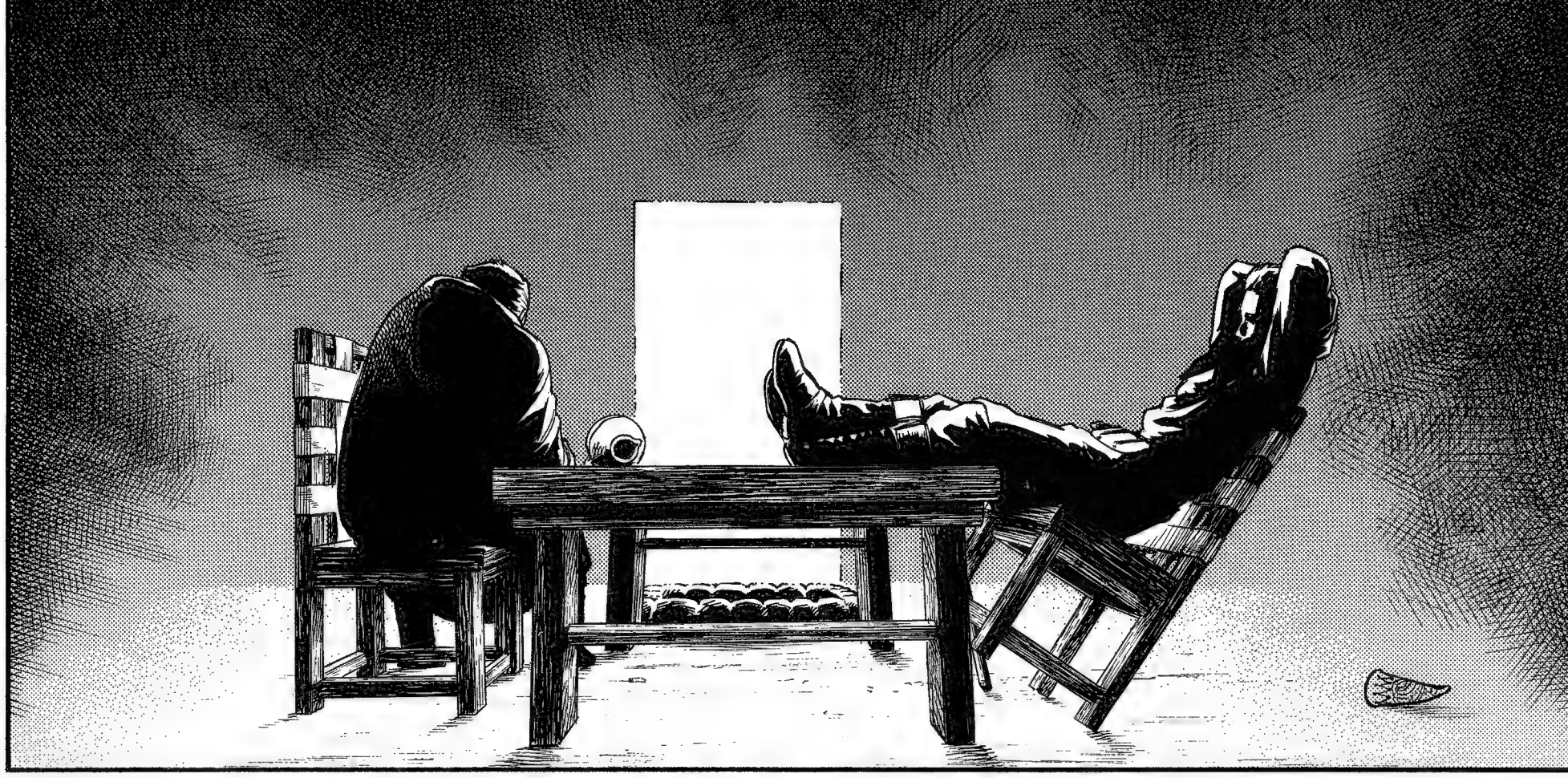
OOH, SCARY.

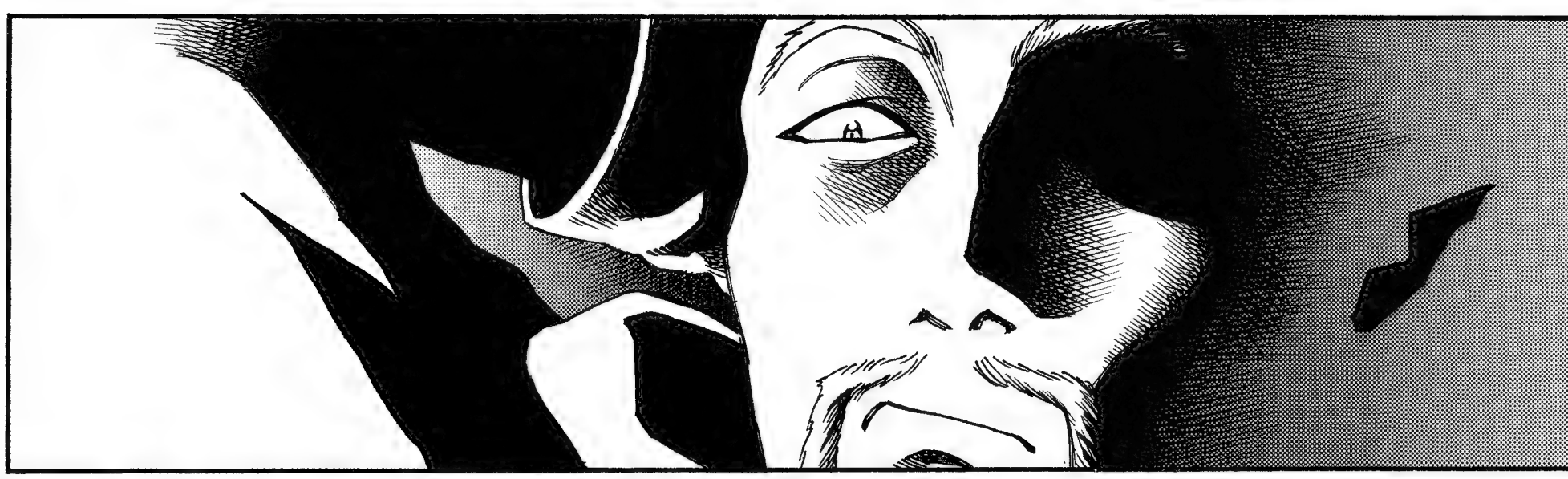
YOU GROW BOLD, VAGA-BOND.

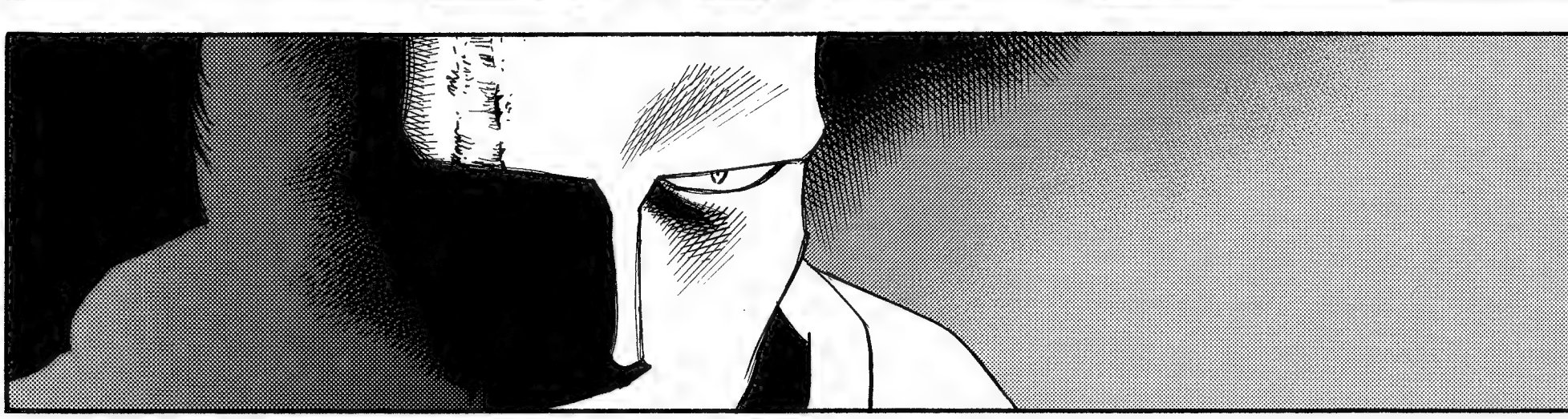
I DIDN'T THINK YOU WERE POWERFUL ENOUGH TO TEST MY PATIENCE THIS WAY.

...

SHALL WE FIND OUT?







GLARE

VMM

THWAAM

BINNNG...

GYA HA HA HA!

SLIPPED CLEAN OUTTA MY HAND! ANYONE HURT IN THERE?!

YOU'VE HAD ONE HORN TOO MANY, BJORN!

LEARN HOW TO THROW!

OOPS! SORRY ABOUT THAT, BOSS!

HEY! BE CAREFUL OUT THERE!

SORRY, SORRY.

HA HA HA!

YOU SCAMPS ALMOST HIT ME!

SO AS I WAS SAYING...

SHH...

AN EXTRA HUNDRED GOLD UP FRONT.

GOOD GRIEF.

...

HMPH.

VERY WELL.

YOU'RE A MAN AMONG MEN!

SEE YOU LATER.

GRIN

OH!

I FORGOT TO ASK.

WHAT KIND OF WARRIOR IS THIS THORS, ANYHOW?

IDENTI-FYING FEATURES, FIGHTING STYLE...

THE MAN NAMED THORS...

...IS NO LONGER A "WAR-RIOR."

SLOSH

THUD

WHAAAA?!

AWW.

WHAT WAS THAT FOR?!

SUCH A WASTE!

PAT PAT

IT'S TIME FOR US TO WORK.

THAT'S ENOUGH DRINKING, LADS!

BOY, THE LOOK ON FLOKI'S FACE...

WISH I COULD'VE SEEN IT.

NICE SPEAR-WORK, BJORN.

PIECE OF CAKE.

AAAAAAAAAAAA

RIIIP

HMPH...

SO THEY'RE MORE THAN JUST TALK.

THERE'S SOMETHING *OFF* ABOUT THIS JOB, IF YOU ASK ME.

WHAT'S THAT?

IT'S FLOKI.

HE'S HIDING TOO MUCH.

HE WAS LYING WHEN HE SAID THORS HAD BEEN ORDERED DEAD.

THAT MUCH IS CERTAIN.

IT'S AN AS-SASSI-NATION.

WHETHER OUT OF SPITE OR SOME-THING ELSE, I DON'T KNOW.

BUT I MAKE THIS AS FLOKI'S OWN SCHEME.

WHY DO YOU SUPPOSE HE DOESN'T HAVE HIS OWN MEN DO THE DIRTY WORK?

WE KILL HIM, WE GET PAID. WHAT'S THE DIFFER-ENCE?

AND WHAT'S YOUR POINT, ASKE-LADD?

BECAUSE HE DOESN'T WANT TO SOIL HIS OWN HANDS DEFYING OFFICIAL ORDERS?

THAT, TOO, POSSIBLY...

BUT I WONDER IF HE WAS MORE AFRAID OF POTENTIAL LOSSES?

SO MANY, IN FACT...

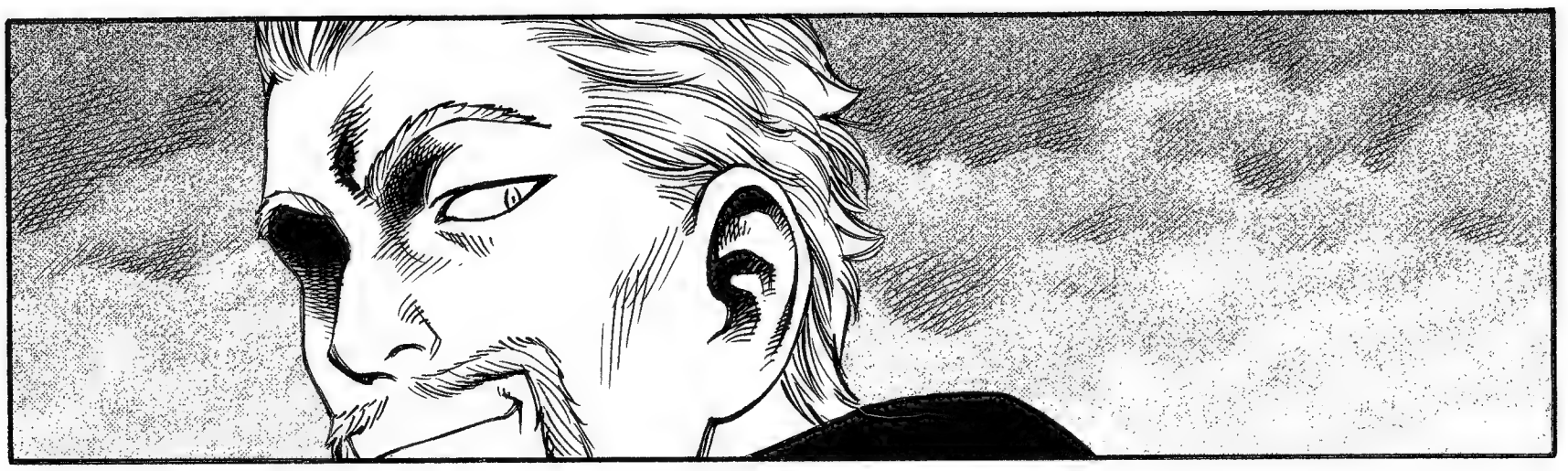
...THAT HE COULD NOT HIDE HIS MISERABLE FAILURE FROM THE CHIEF.

...

AN ENTIRE TEAM OF JOMS-VIKINGS?

AGAINST ONE EX-WARRIOR?

YOU'RE JOKING...



GET DOWN HERE, YOU MISCHIE-VOUS RUNT!!

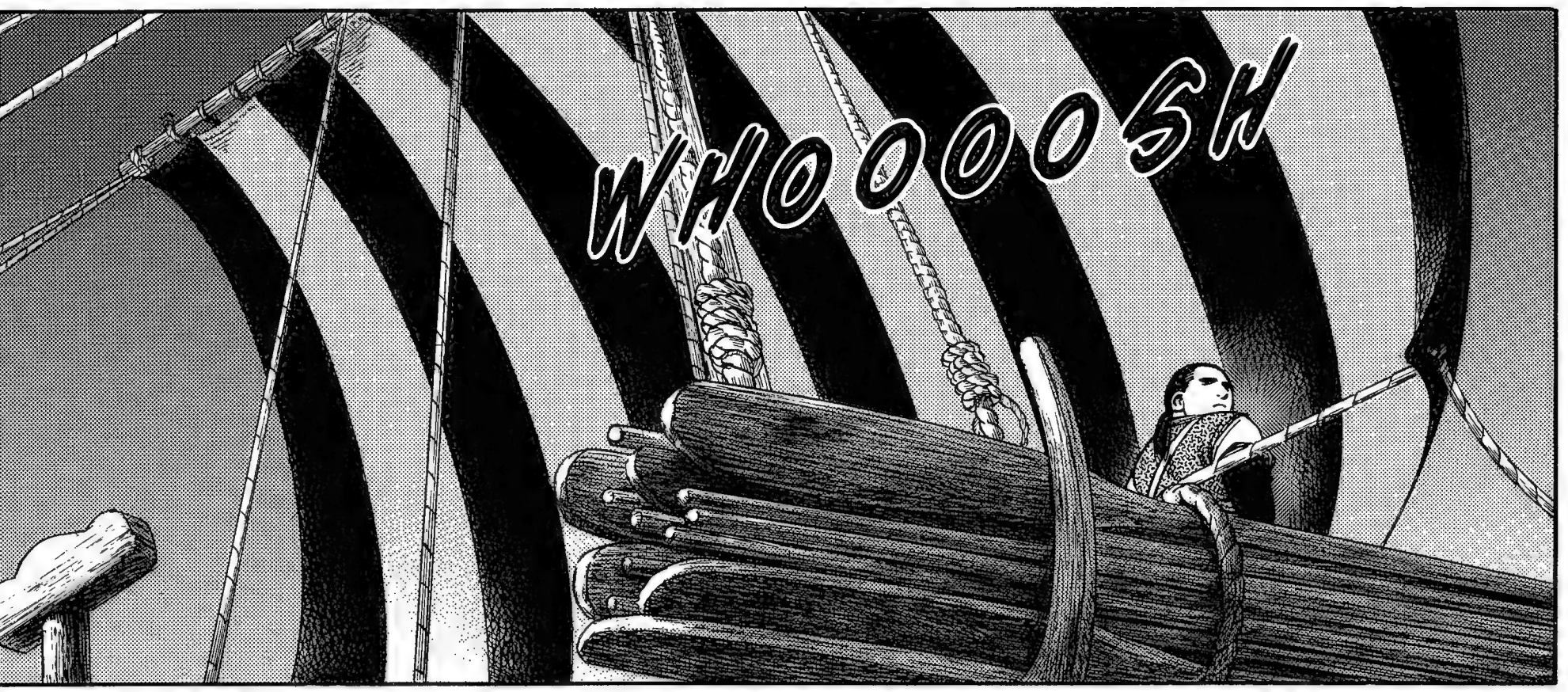
HEY!!

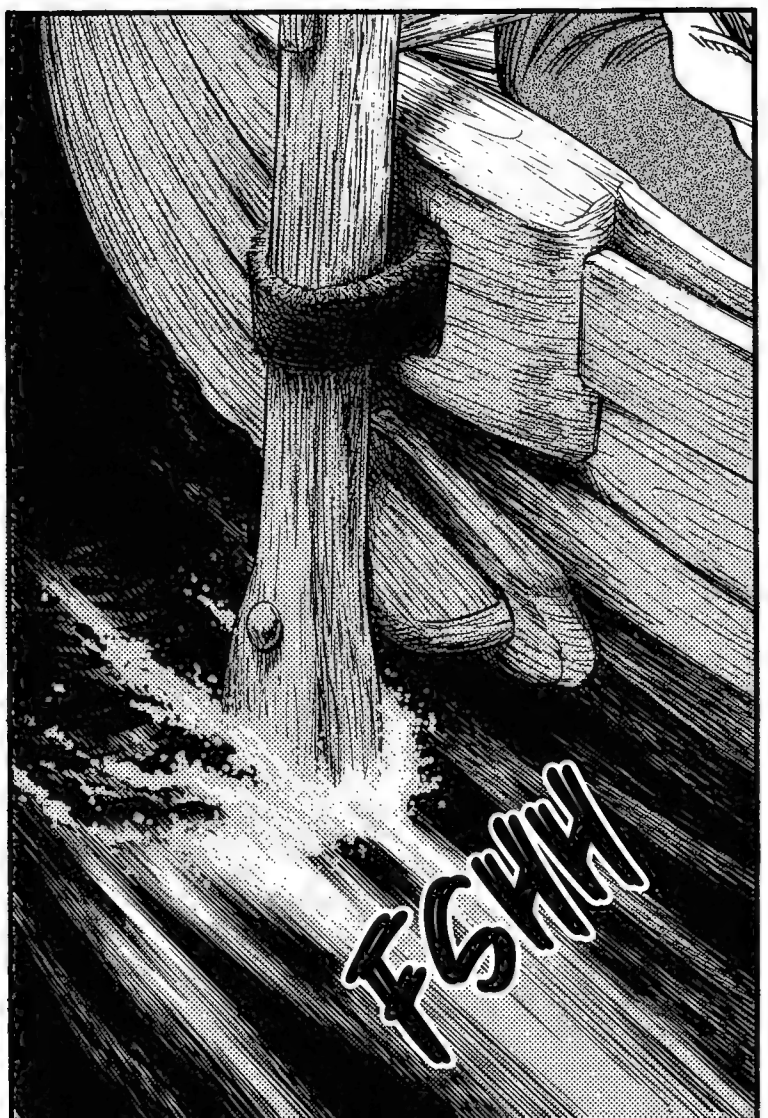
REALLY MAKES ME WANT TO SEE THE GUY.

THE "TROLL OF JOM."

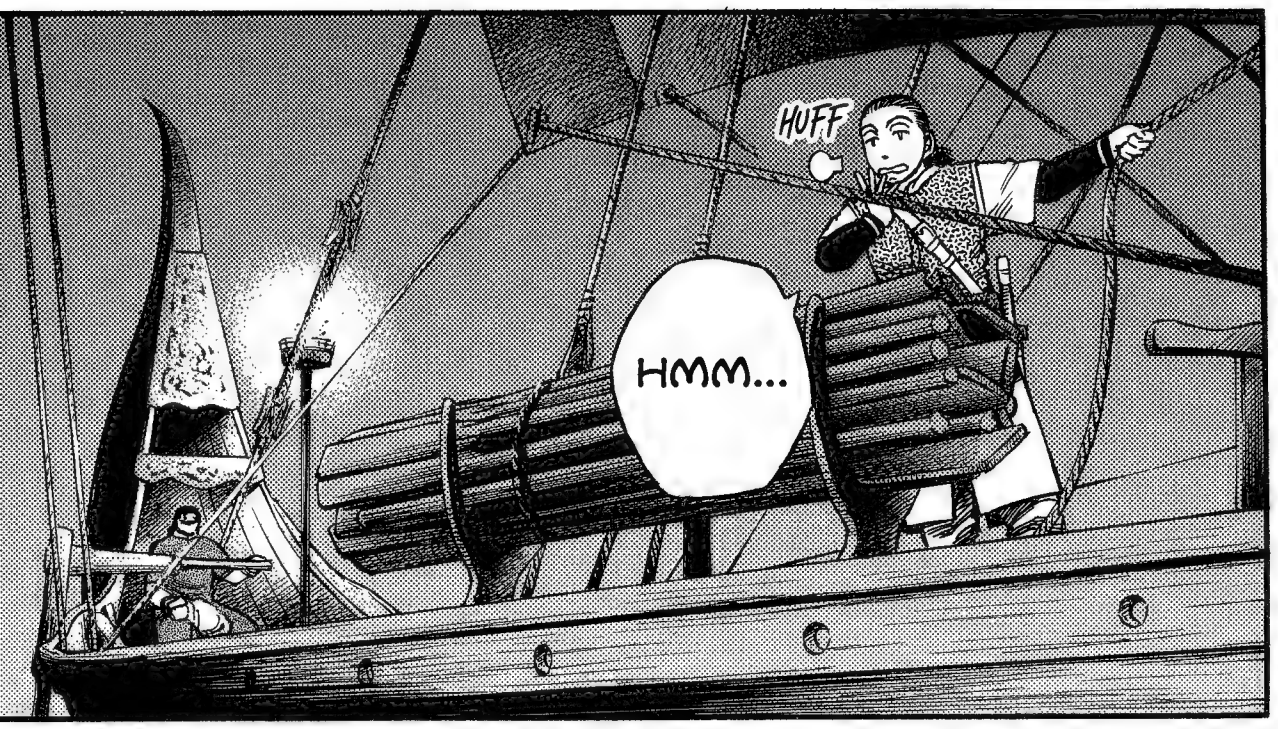
I SURE HOPE HE'S WORTH ALL THE TROUBLE.

CHAPTER 9 - END


WHOOOOSH


FSHH

CHAPTER 10: NIGHT WAKE


HUFF
HMM...

YAWN...

ARE WE EVEN MOVING, FOR THAT MAT-TER?
IF WE CAN'T SEE ANYTHING, HOW DO WE KNOW WHICH WAY WE'RE GOING?
FSHHHH
CAN'T EVEN SEE THE STARS.

THORS!

WIND'S SHIFTED. TILT A BIT STAR-BOARD.

SHH

AHH...

GOT IT.

WE'LL TAKE THE LEAD, JUST FOLLOW.

HOW DOES LEIF JUST *KNOW* WHICH WAY TO HEAD LIKE THAT?

INCREDI-BLE...

FSHHH...

IS THERE SOME SIGN HE'S FOLLOW-ING?

WHOOSH

ARI.

AH

DON'T STARE TOO HARD INTO THE NIGHT SEA.

IT'LL SUCK YOU IN.

FSSHHH

SMACK

SO, THORS ...

WHAT'S THE BATTLE-FIELD LIKE?

YOU'VE FOUGHT ALL OVER THE WORLD, HAVEN'T YOU?

I WANT TO HEAR SOME HEROIC TALES!

...I SEE...

I'M HOPING TO BRING DOWN AN ENEMY CAPTAIN AND BE-COME A MAN.

BWACHOO!!

MY DAUGH-TER *DOES* HAVE A THING FOR STRONG MEN.

YOU'LL HAVE A TOUGH FIGHT AHEAD OF YOU.

DO YOU LOVE YLVA, ARI?

WELL...

I SUPPOSE I DO. SHE'S A PRETTY GIRL.

GOSH ...

URM ...

TEE-HEE.

ERR, WHAT?

NOTH-ING GETS BY YOU, DOES IT?

SHE WAS BORN WHEN I WAS STILL WITH THE JOMS-VIKINGS.

MY FIRST-BORN.

FSHHH...

AWAAHA

AWAHHH

HIG

FWA

NGAAAH

...

GODS, IT'S A NOISY THING...

AA AA

FNGYAAAHYAAAA

AA AH

HH HHH

MASTER THORS, YOU MUSN'T HOLD HER THAT WAY...

THE HEAD! SUP-PORT HER HEAD!

AAH!

WAH WAH

WAH

IS SOME-THING WRONG WITH IT?

DO ALL BABES SCREECH SO HIDEOUSLY?

GIVE ME A SON NEXT, HELGA.

THE CHIEF WANTS A BOY.

MB-WA-AHH

GIVE HER A NAME...

...THORS.

IT WAS A HARD BIRTH; SHE LOOKED TO BE ON HER DEATH-BED.

MY WIFE HELGA WAS THE CHIEF'S DAUGHTER.

AAAAGH

PICK SOME-THING OUT. I'M BUSY NOW.

WE MUST VENTURE TO NORWAY.

THORS!

I'M COMING NOW.

THE SHIP IS READY, THORS.

GIVE HER A NAME.

WE'VE BEEN TO-GETHER FIFTEEN YEARS SINCE...

...AND IT'S STILL THE ONLY TIME I'VE EVER SEEN HER ANGRY.

...

AWHAAAAAAA

YLVA WAS MY MOTHER'S NAME.

IT WAS THE FIRST THING THAT CAME INTO MY HEAD.

IS THAT... HIS HEROIC TALE?

SHH...

YLVA.

ISN'T THAT NICE, YLVA?

I THINK... THAT WAS THE MOMENT.

EVER SINCE, I'VE BEEN AFRAID OF BATTLE.

THAT'S WHY I FLED.

MY OLD COMRADES CURSED MY NAME, I'M SURE.

LAND AHOY!

THE FAROES ARE AHEAD!

CAWW...

CAWW

CAWW

CAWW

GAWK-K

CAWW...

CAWW

CAWW

CAWW
CAWW
FLAP
FLAP
HOP
HOP
HWAHH...
AH!
DON'T RUN.
DID WE MAKE IT TO ENGLAND ?!
IS THIS ENGLAND ?!
NOT EVEN CLOSE!
FATHER!! FATH- ERRRR!!
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP

Norwegian Sea
Iceland
Faroe Islands
Shetland Islands
Norway
Scotland
North Sea
Denmark
Ireland
England
Atlantic Ocean
THESE ARE THE FAROE ISLANDS.
SMACK BETWEEN ICELAND AND NORWAY.
GOT A LONG WAY LEFT TO GO.
THE JOURNEY WILL BE MUCH EASIER IF WE CATCH OUR BREATH HERE.
OOOH.
DOESN'T REALLY UNDER-STAND
DID YOU THINK YOU'D BE GOING WITH US ALL THE WAY TO ENGLAND?
THERE'S A VILLAGE WITHIN THE INLET YONDER. WE CAN REPLENISH OUR WATER THERE.
THEY'LL TRADE SUPPLIES WITH US AS WELL.
PREPARE TO MAN OARS!!
...
AWW!
SO MUCH FOR ALL OF THORS'S WORK...
THIS SUCKS...
BOO!
YES!
HARRUMPH

PSHHH

BOOOM

FSHH...

MY POOR, POOR ARSE...

HUFF!

BOOOM

IF ONLY WE DIDN'T HAVE TO DO THIS PART!

WHEEZE WHEEZE!

ROW! ROW!

BOOOM

EEEEP!

?

!

PAUSE

WHAT'S THE MATTER, LEIF?

...

SOME-THING'S NOT RIGHT.

WHAT IS?

I'M NOT SURE...

BUT SOME-THING'S DIFFERENT FROM THE LAST TIME.

...

CLINK... SPRINKLE...

!

THE HOUSES.

THERE ARE FEWER THAN LAST TIME.

!

THAT'S IT.

WHAAAT?! ARE YOU SERIOUS?

I DON'T LIKE THE FEEL OF THIS PLACE. THE TERRAIN IS BAD FOR US, AS WELL.

LET'S TURN BACK, LEIF.

BOOOM

HEY! THEY'RE TURNING AROUND!!

TCH! THEY'RE ONTO US.

RUSTLE

!

BOOOM

BOOOM

THEY'RE CAUTIOUS. COULD BE TOUGHER THAN THEY LOOK.

HEH... NOT BAD AT ALL.

WE'LL JUST HAVE TO DEAL WITH POSSIBLE SHIP DAMAGE!

WE'RE CLOSER THAN WOULD BE IDEAL, BUT NO MATTER. LET 'EM FLY!

?!

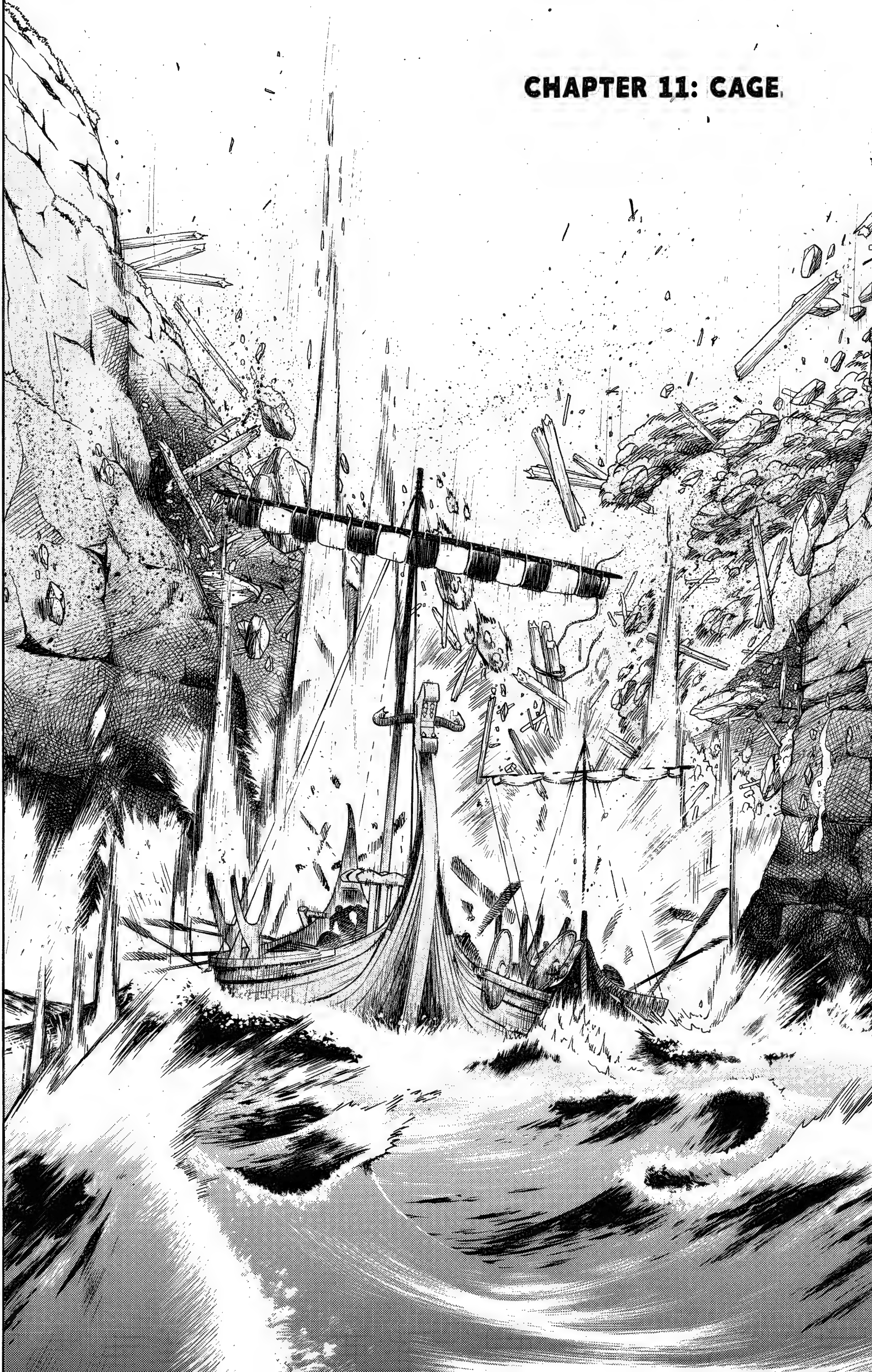
SPLISH

SPLASH

DM-GR-MNRG-RA-KK

CHAPTER 10 - END

CHAPTER 11: CAGE



DSSHH
PSHAA

SPLAAASH

THWOK

GONK

GLALANK

KRSSH...

WHA...

THE INLET'S BLOCKED ...

PERFECT.

KICK

HOW'S THAT?!

THEY'RE TRAPPED LIKE RATS.

SPLASH...

THORS! EVERYONE ALL RIGHT OVER THERE?!

SPWASH

HRRG

N-NO...

I'M... ALL RIGHT...

ANY-ONE HURT?!

WE'RE FINE, SHIP AND MEN!

ANY DAMAGE, LEIF?!

WATCH FOR ARROWS! HIDE YOUR HEADS WITH YOUR SHIELDS!

THE REAL TRAP IS WITHIN THE INLET!!

HERE THEY COME!!

BOOOM

WITH-IN?

BOOOM

BOOOM

BOOOOM

BOOOM

BOOM

...

PIRATES

...

BOOOM

ARE THESE... SUPPORT BEAMS FROM HOUSES ...?

THERE'S NO WAY THROUGH THIS. WE'RE ENTIRELY TRAPPED...

KRK...

BOOOM

...THEY'VE GOT US...

WE'RE NOT GETTING OUT OF THIS ONE SAFELY, YOU FOOLS!

IF THEY DON'T SLAUGHTER US OUTRIGHT, THEY'LL SELL US AT THE SLAVE MARKET!

IF...

IF WE SURRENDER ...WILL THEY LET US LIVE...?

D-DON'T ASK ME! I'VE NEVER BEEN THROUGH THIS BEFORE!

STOP IT, ARI.

ONLY T-T-TWO-TWO SH-SHIPS OF THEM. EASY AS PIE...

RATTLE RATTLE...

IT'S KILL OR BE KILLED... TIME TO TEST YOUR METTLE!

THEY'RE FAR BEYOND YOUR LEVEL.

THESE AREN'T FARMERS RAISING SUMMER FUNDS ON THE SIDE.

THEY'RE VETERANS.

PAT

F-FATHER...?

PFFF...

CREAK

UM, THORS?

KCHAK...

PLOD...

THOR-
FINN.

!!!!!

TUG

...

ONLY USE IT TO PROTECT YOUR-SELF.

GOT THAT? *ONLY* WHEN IT'S ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY!

I-I-I'M READY! I'LL KILL 'EM ALL!!

S-S-S-SO WE'RE GONNA FIGHT?! WE'RE GONNA FIGHT, AREN'T WE?!

UM...

OKAY...

...

BOOM

DON'T SPEAK OF "KILLING" THAT WAY.

HUH?

LEAP

MWAA

ONE,
TWO,
THREE
...

MUNCH
MUNCH

BJORN! WAS THAT MUSH-ROOM WHAT I THINK IT-

WHA-?!

REALLY? THAT'S *IT?*

ELEVEN.

TWELVE ...

...AND ONE KID.

CAN YOU LET ME HANDLE THEM?

ASKELADD!

THERE'S NO FUN IN OVER-RUNNING THEM ALL AT ONCE.

JUST SIT BACK HERE AND LET ME TEST HIM FIRST.

I'LL SEE WHAT THIS "TROLL OF JOM" IS MADE OF.

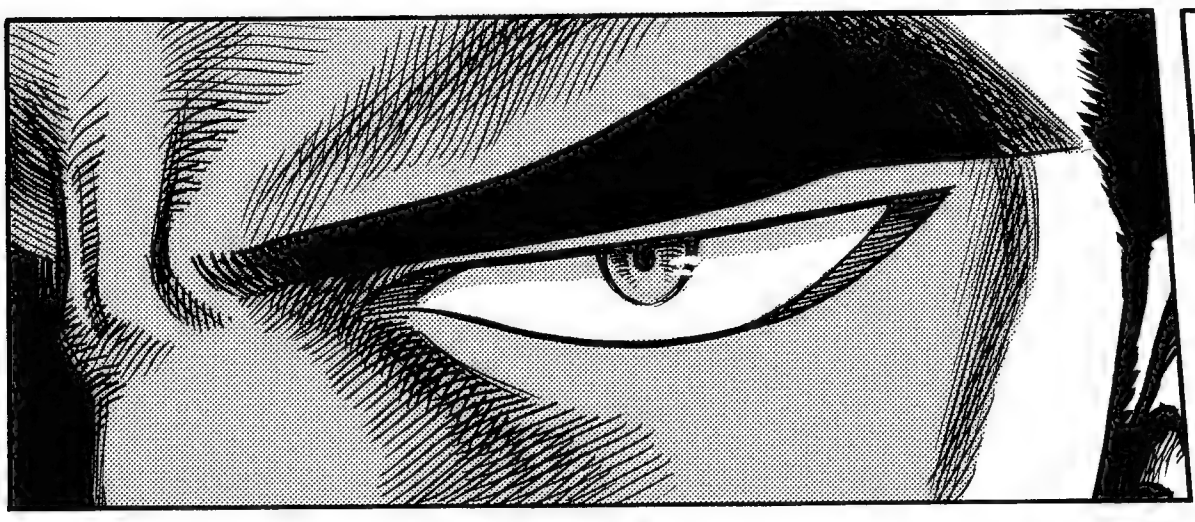
LEAP

THUMP

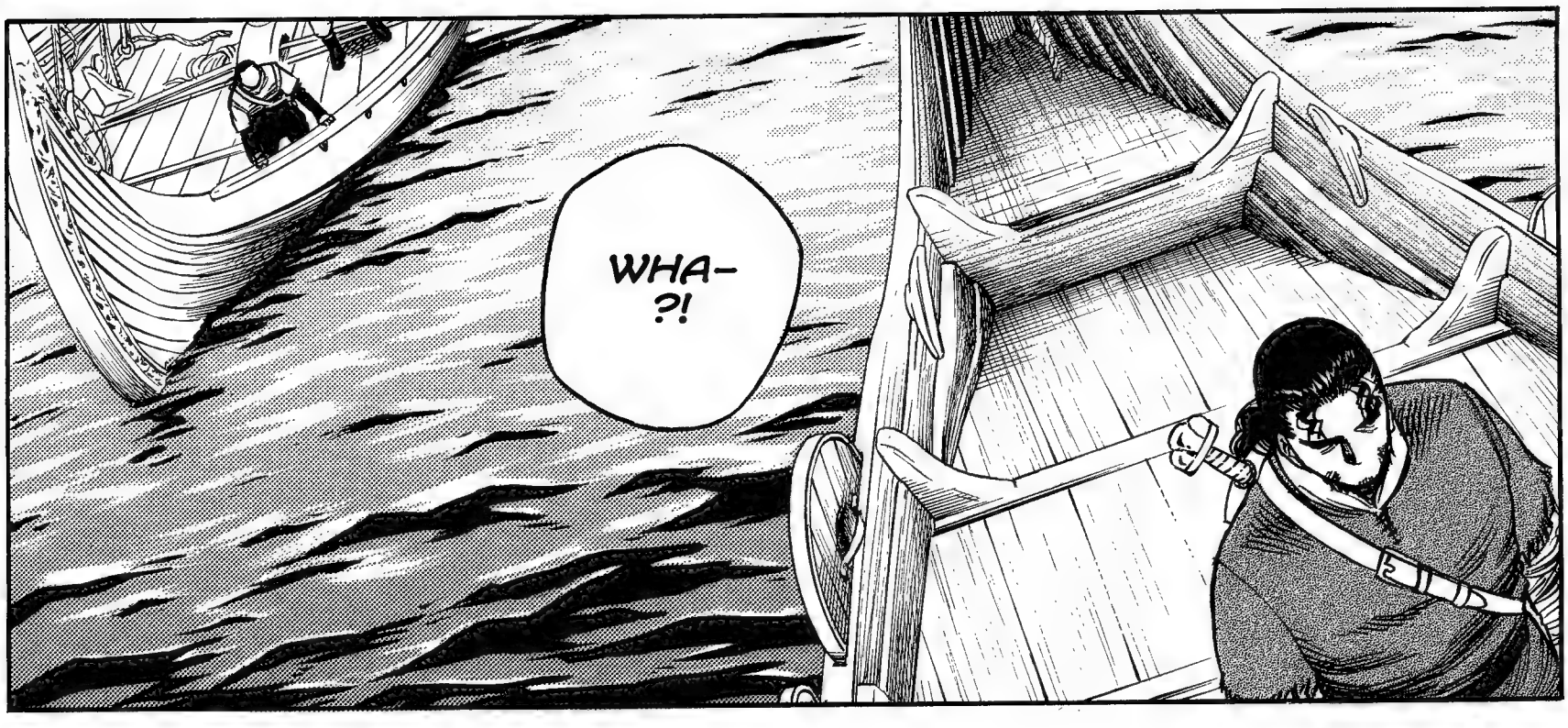
HMF ?

SEEMS HE HAS THE SAME IDEA.

VERY WELL, GO AHEAD.



...WHA?


WHA-
?!

WHAT THE-?!

WHA...

WHERE TH' FUCK DID YOU COME FROM?!

WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?!

FWOOM

BWAH!

FLOPPP

UH.

OH?

NK

UK

HE'S GOOD.

OOOH.

RAAH!

RAHHH

BASH

GRK

KRAK

POW

DMM

DMM

DMM

?!

WH...

WHAT HAP-PENED ?!

MY LEGS...

C-CAN'T... STAND...

WHAT...

...THE...

NOT BAD...

...TROLL OF JOM.

CHAPTER 11 - END

CHAPTER 12: MORE THAN A MONSTER

RAAHHH
WHOOSH

CRUNCH

RAHHH

AGH

WHUMP

THUD

SMACK

FWUM

HAH!

RAHHH

CRUK

SNAG

YANK

RAHHH

URGH!

CRICK CRAKK GRRK

GWEGH!

THWUD

CRUNCH

AAAGH!

WHA...

WHAT IN THE...

PWA PWA

SPLASH SPLISH

CRAKK

TOSS

WHAK

SPLOSHH

RAAAHHH

WHOA!

WHAMM

ROLL ROLL

R

WHAT'S THE PLAN, BJORN?!

AAAA

HERE HE COMES!

H

OH.

HE'S GONE...

SNORT

ER, BJO...

GRAA-AHHH

THUD

GRAHHHHH

GYEHH!

EEEP!

WHOM?

GYAA!

DWAAA!

AAAH!

WHUK

GNAW!

GRRR...

ZMMM...

GRRRARR

BJORN'S GONE COM-PLETELY MAD!!

OH, SHIT!!

WHUD

KRAM

CRUNCH

WHOOSH

GRAAW

GRRRAAAAA

S-SOME-ONE STOP HIM BEFORE HE SINKS THE BOAT!!

STOP *HIM*?! ARE YOU MAD, TOO?!

HOW DO YOU STOP A MONSTER LIKE THAT?!

THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO NOW!!

SPLASH

SLOSHH

ALL HANDS OVER-BOARD!!

WHAM

CRUSHK

CRAKK

HE'S EATEN THE "BERSERKER MUSH-ROOM"...

RUAGRA

...

AH

GLARE

SNORRT

GRAAARWRR

CRUNCH

SHAKE

SHAKE

PSHHHT

WOBBLE...

GRAHH

SH
RRK
WHAM

ZZMMM

HE...HE'S *MORE* THAN A MONSTER...

WHA...

HE DID IT ALL BARE-HANDED...

...FOR THE OTHER SHIP.

AND NOW ...

HE'S A *TROLL*...

GRRRGHH

LURCH...

OH?

SPLISH...

GRAHH

FW

OOM

SNATCH

RAAAHHH

SURREN-DER?!

WH-WHAT DO YOU THINK WE SHOULD DO?!

TH-THEY'RE COMING!!

HEE-HA-HA-HA-HA

GEH-HA-HA-HA-HA-HA-HA

WH... WHERE'S THORS?!

I'D RATHER DIE A WARRIOR THAN LIVE AS A SLAVE!!

WELL, I'M NOT GOING DOWN WITHOUT A FIGHT!!

THEY'RE WORTH A LOT LESS AT MARKET WITH SCARS AND MISSING LIMBS!

MAKE SURE THE BOYS ARE TAKEN UNHARMED.

CREAK...

SHWOOM

HMM?

HEH HEH...

READY TO PLAY WITH US, LITTLE BOYS?

GRRAAAA

SPLATCH

DWAAH ?!

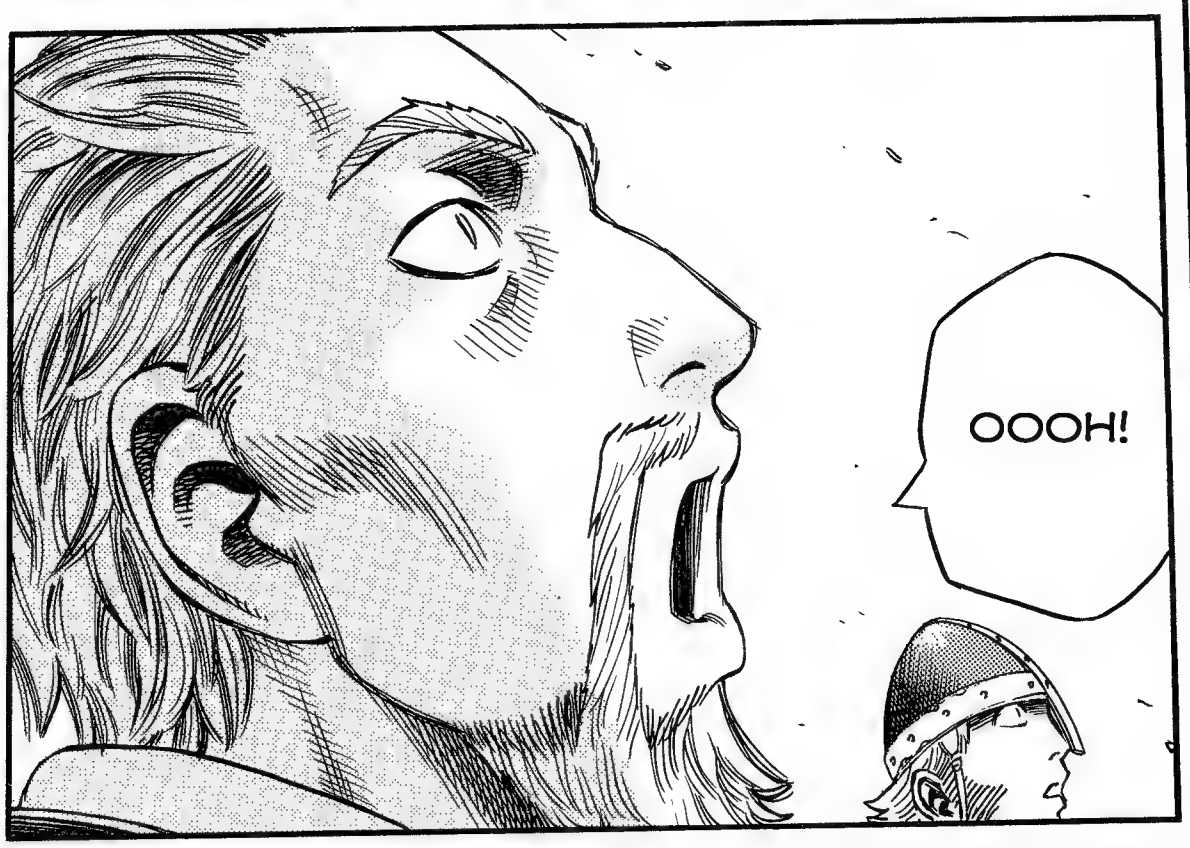
HUH?

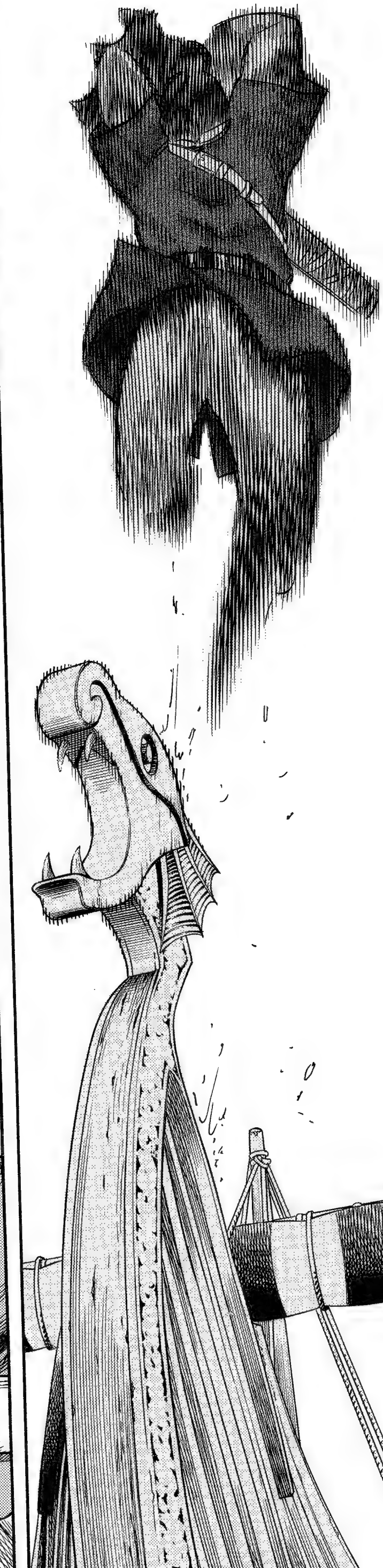
KASPLASH

WHAT?

BJORN ?

DMM


OOOH!



BOOM

THORS !!

BA-

AAAAH!

THWAM

ZABLOOSH

SHHK

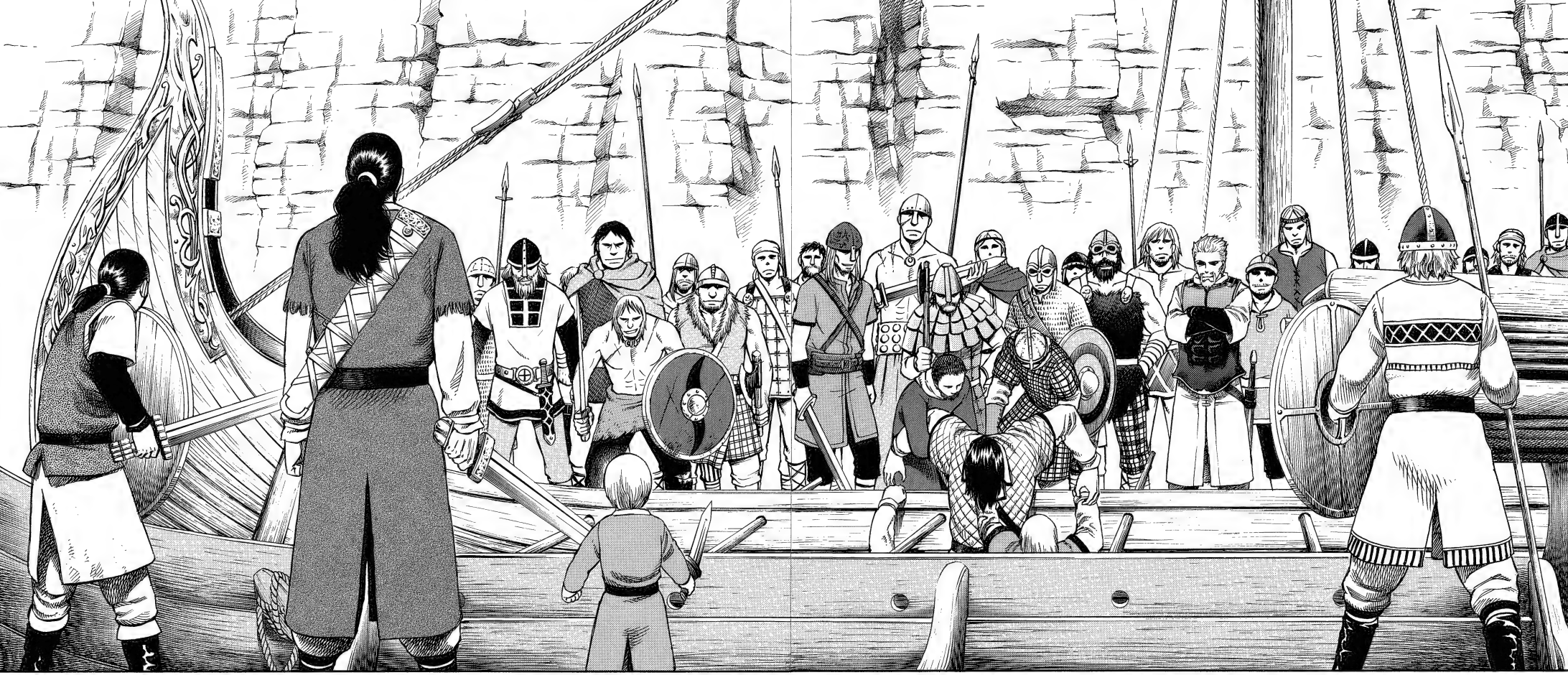
LEAVE THIS PLACE NOW, AND YOUR LIVES WILL BE SPARED!!

LISTEN CLOSELY! YOUR STRENGTH HAS ALREADY BEEN HALVED!!

OHO!♪

CHAPTER 12 - END

CHAPTER 13: SMELL



BEGONE, PIRATES.
YOU CANNOT DEFEAT ME.

WAIT!

DON'T RELEASE UNTIL ASKELADD GIVES THE SIGNAL!

GRRK...

COCKY WHORE-SON...

WHY'S HE BIDING HIS TIME?! ASKELADD'S NOT NORMALLY LIKE THIS!

TSK!

AND WHY NOT?! I'VE GOT A CLEAR ANGLE RIGHT DOWN ON HIM!!

UP AGAINST TWO WARSHIPS, AND HE HASN'T GIVEN AN INCH.

THE MAN IS UN-BELIEV-ABLE...

...

OR HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN THE ARCHERS PERCHED ON TOP OF THE CLIFF LOOKING DOWN ON US?!

KEEP YOUR PANTS ON, YOU CLOWNS!

WE'D BE NO *MEN OF THE SEA* IF WE LET THORS DO ALL THE FIGHTING!

LET'S JOIN THE FRAY, LEIF!!

B-BUT...

HE'S THE ONLY ONE WHO KNOWS WHAT HE'S DOING HERE.

LEAVE THE SITUA-TION TO THORS.

YOU DON'T HAVE ANY OTHER *CHOICE!*

DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND?! WITHOUT THORS, YOU'RE JUST A RABBLE OF CHILDREN AND MEN WHO'VE NEVER BEEN IN A REAL BATTLE IN YOUR LIVES!!

CLUNK...

KSHK...

THESE MEN ARE NOT THE TYPE TO BUDGE WHEN THREAT-ENED.

ZMM...

I COUNT ROUGHLY THIRTY ON THAT SHIP.

NOT OUT OF THE QUES-TION FOR *ME*, BUT...

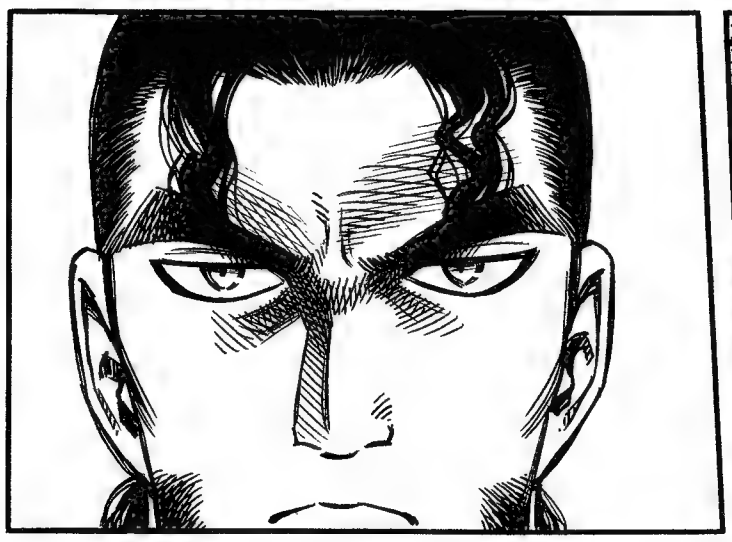
THE ARCHERS AREN'T SHOOT-ING, FOR NOW.

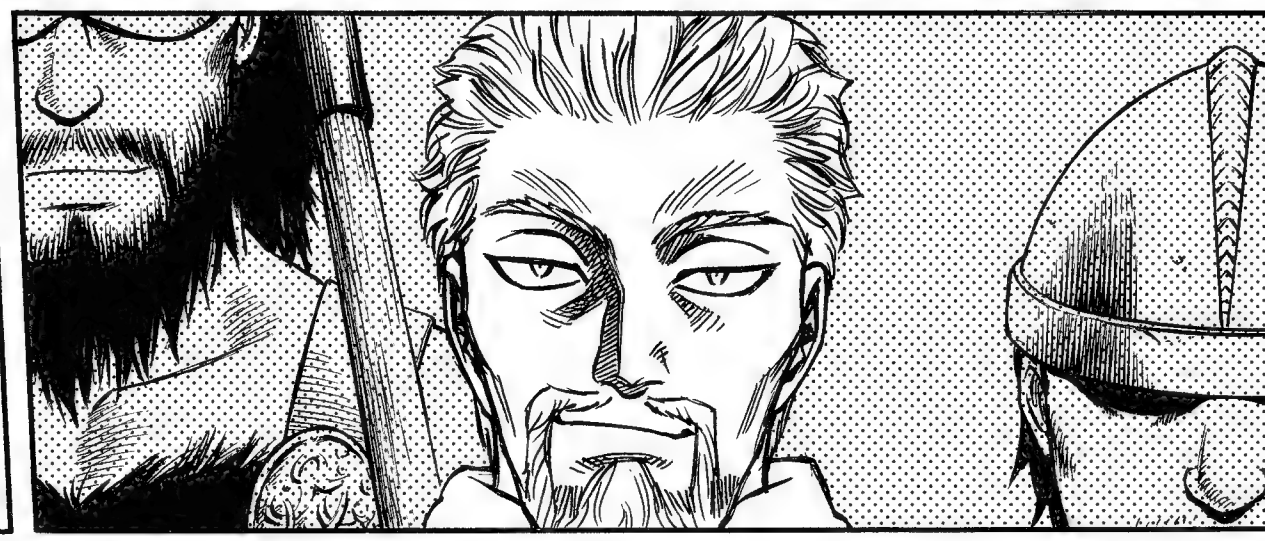
IF THEIR ENTIRE FORCE MOBILIZES, IT'LL BE A MELEE IN SECONDS.

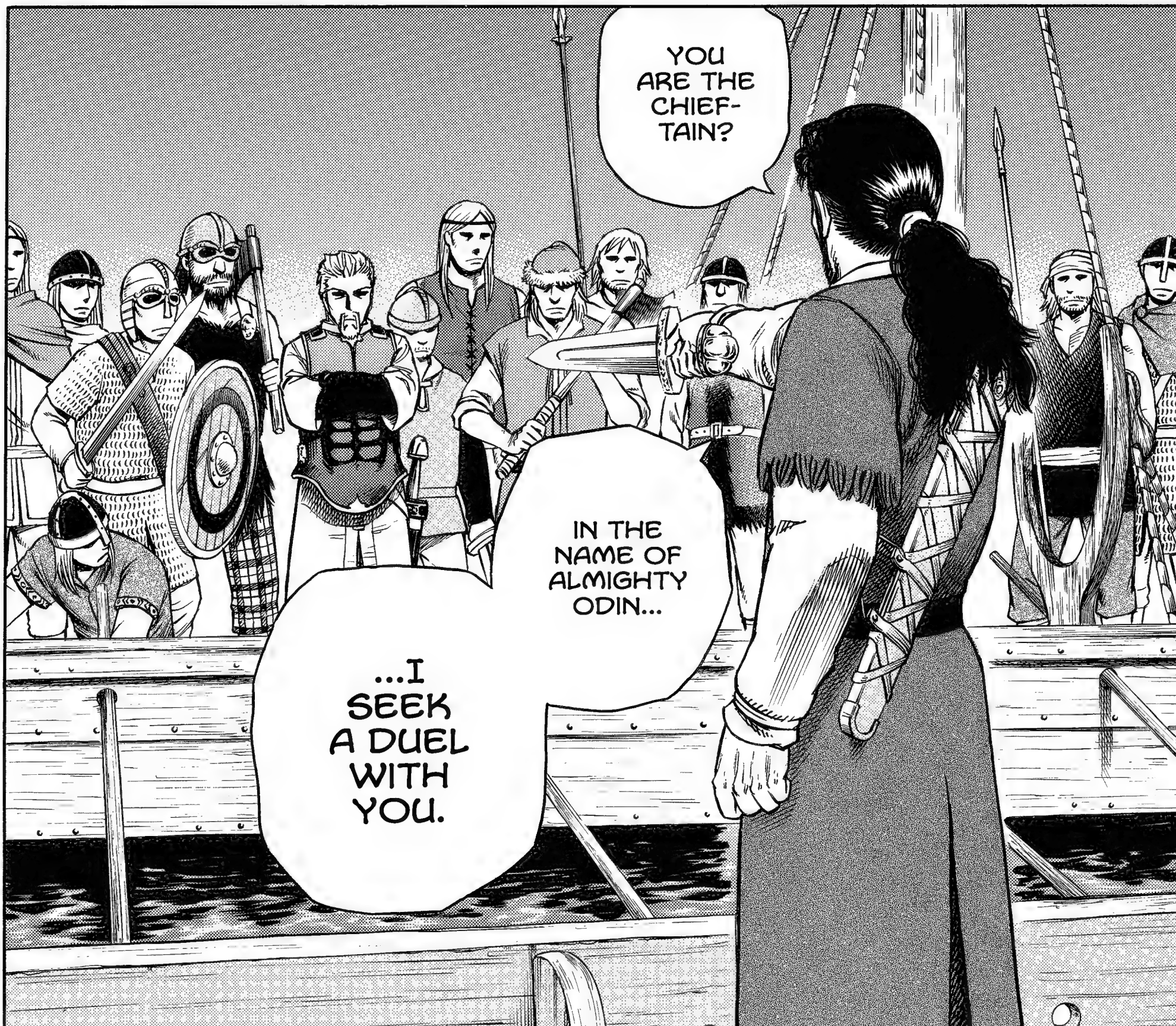
THE SHIPS ARE TOO CLOSE...

...BUT THAT'S NOT THE POINT. WE MUST AVOID CLOSE-RANGE COMBAT AT ALL COSTS...

I CAN FEND FOR MYSELF ...






YOU ARE THE CHIEF-TAIN?
IN THE NAME OF ALMIGHTY ODIN...
...I SEEK A DUEL WITH YOU.

MURMUR...

HOW DID HE...

EH?

D'YOU KNOW HIM, ASKE-LADD?

IF YOU WIN, DO AS YOU WILL. IF I WIN, TAKE YOUR MEN AND LEAVE THIS PLACE AT ONCE.

IF YOU REFUSE MY CHAL-LENGE ...

...YOU WILL GAIN A MERE DOZEN SLAVES AT THRICE THE COST.

MIND IF I ASK A QUESTION FIRST?

WHAT MAKES YOU THINK I AM THEIR LEADER?

...

THE SMELL.

GOOD ANSWER!

HA HA!

...ACCEPT YOUR DUEL IN THE SIGHT OF ODIN!

CREAK

VERY WELL! I, ASKE-LADD, SON OF OLAF...

TSK!

UH, OKAY.

STAY BACK NEAR THE PROW.

HUP!

LEAP

THWUD

AS IT HAPPENS ...

...I SMELLED SOME-THING ON YOU, TOO.

SNIFF

...TROLL OF JOM.

WE SMELL ALIKE...

I SEE...

FLOKI HIRED YOU.

...

!

HE KNOWS ME...

YOU'RE WRONG!!

I LIKE CLEVER MEN.

HAH!

YOU'RE VERY QUICK.

FATHER'S STRONG! HE'S GONNA *KILL* YOU, PIRATE!!

YOU'RE A BIG POO-HEAD AND YOUR ARMOR LOOKS STUPID AND I *HATE* YOU!!

I TOLD YOU TO STAY BACK!

FATHER'S NOT A BAD GUY LIKE YOU!!

ARRGH

IS HE YOURS, THORS?

HA HA.

WELL, THE KID'S GOT PLUCK.

...

I SEE...

GRRR

NO, WHY?

ASKE-LADD...

...DO YOU HAVE A WIFE AND CHIL-DREN?

LET'S BEGIN.
CREAK...

GSHH

GSHH

HE JUST STRIDES RIGHT UP, CLOSING THE DISTANCE.

GSHH

I SUPPOSE THAT SPEAKS TO HIS CONFI-DENCE.

GSHH

GSHH

CHOP

HMM...

SHH...

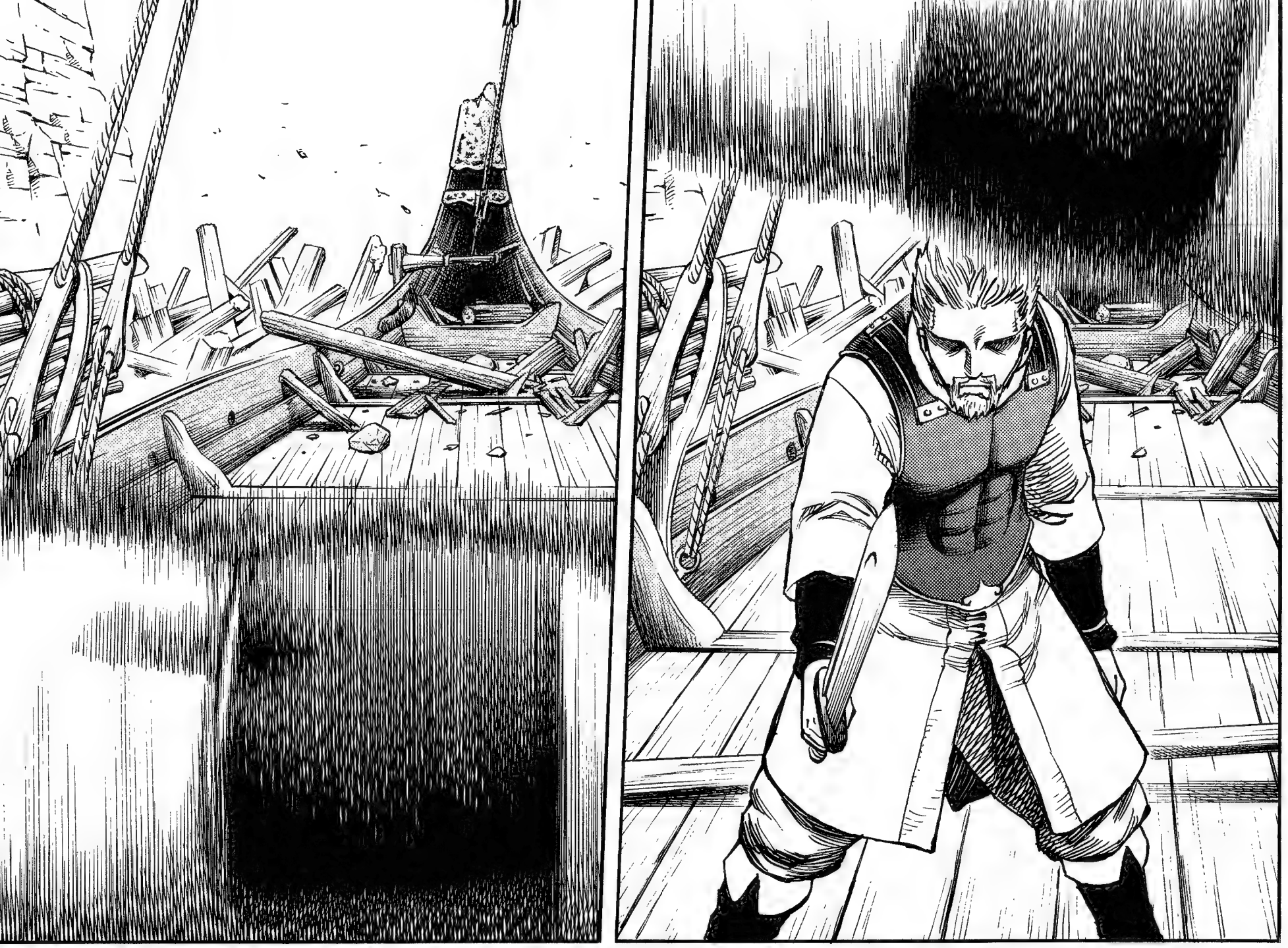
SHYAAA
CRAAA
KKAA

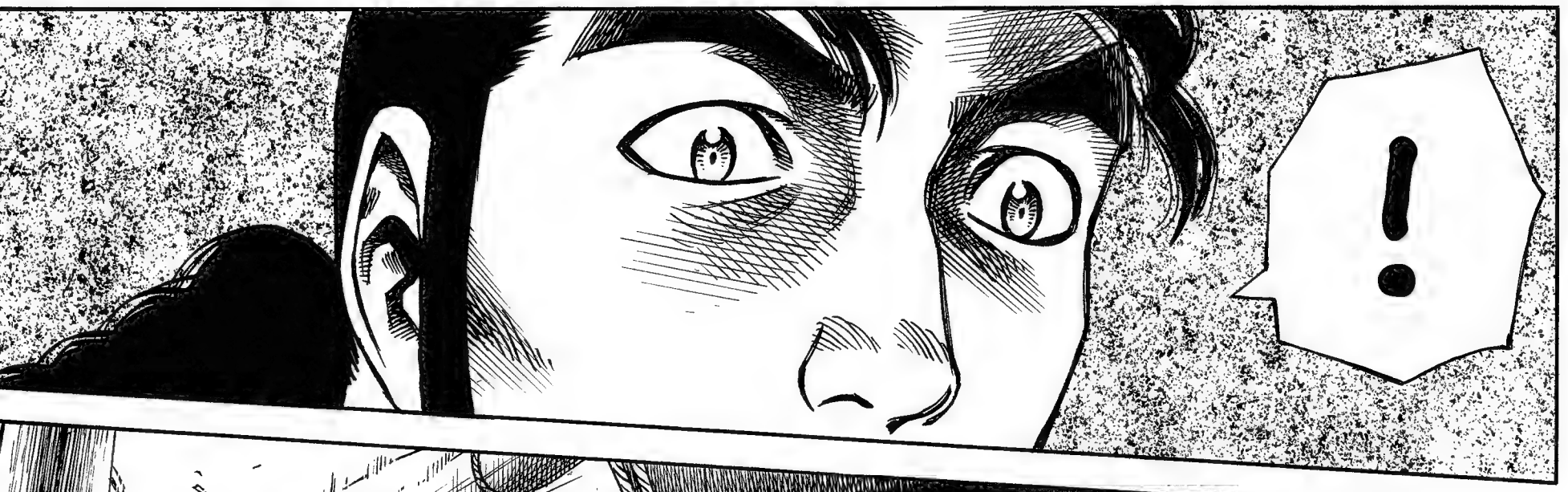
FATHER !!

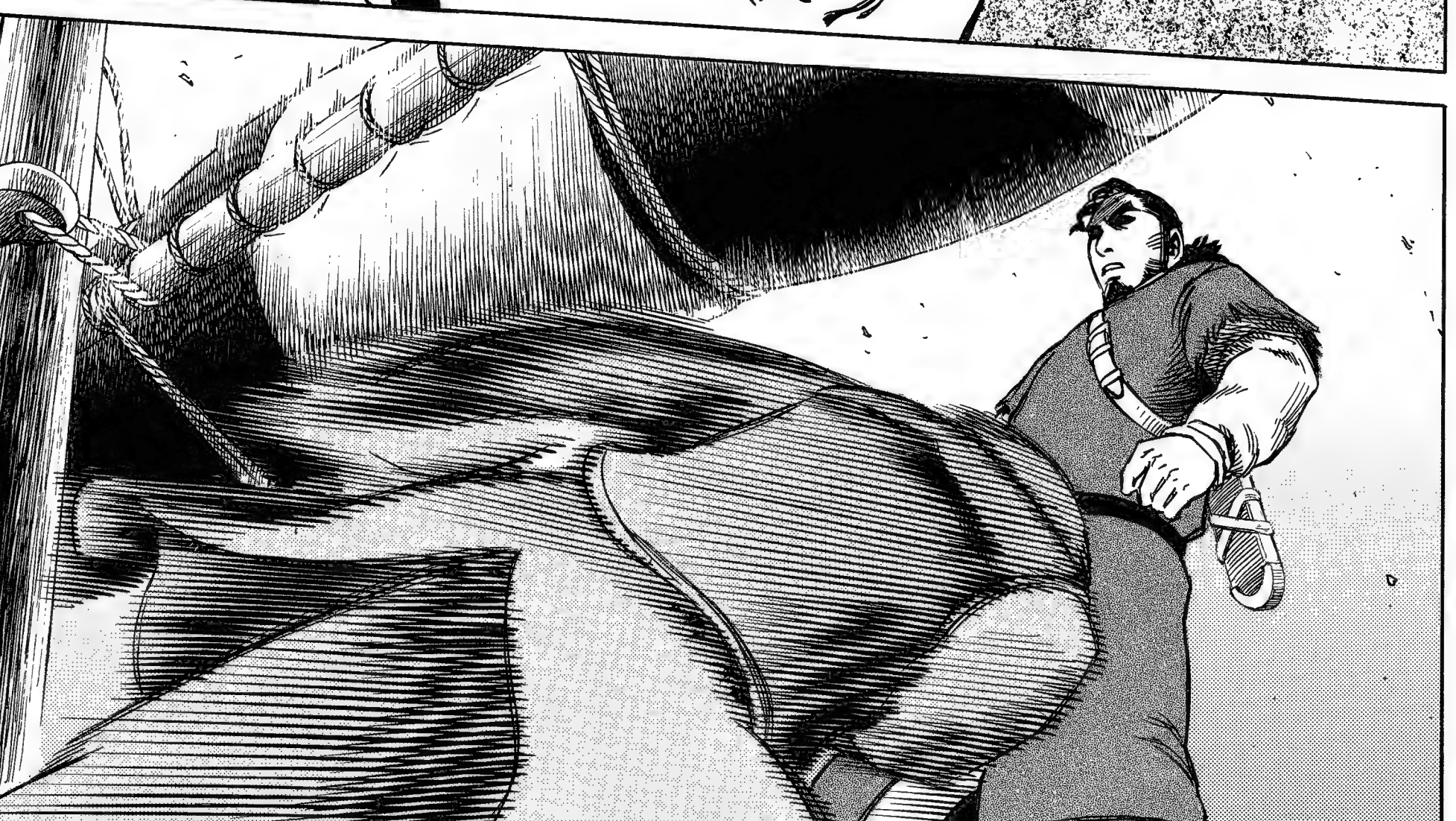
WHA-?!

GRRSKK

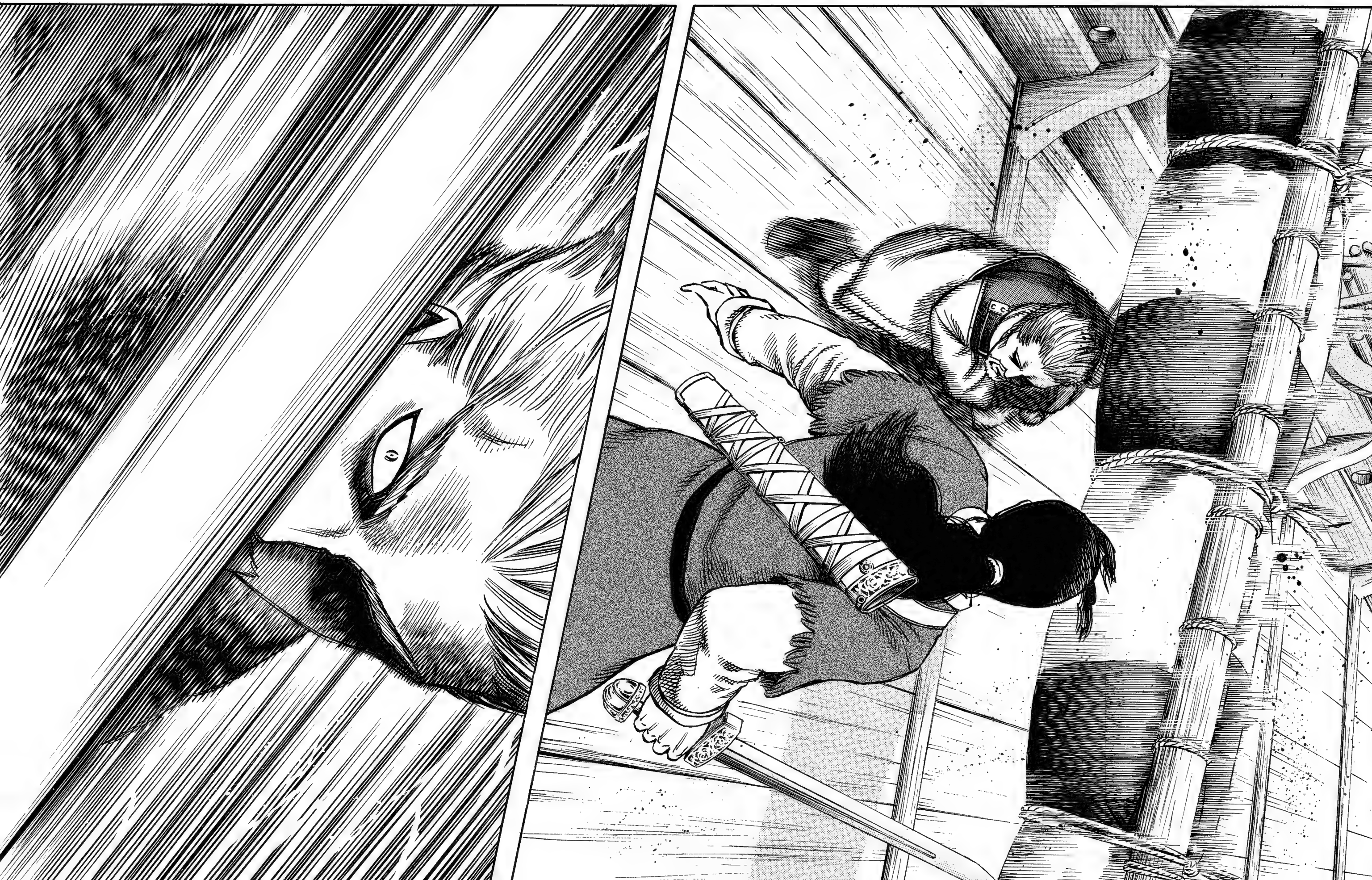
OOOO







CHAPTER 13 - END



CHAPTER 14: THE SWORD OF THORS

WHA-?!

JUST GRAZED HIM?!

KSOO

!

WHOOM

HOP

TEK

DET
DET

OOFH!

RAAAHHH

BRILLIANT !!

RAHH

THAT'S THE CHIEF IN PEAK FORM!!

THERE'S NOT A MAN ALIVE WHO CAN MATCH HIM IN COMBAT!

AAA

FA-THERRR !!

SURPRISE ATTACKS WON'T WORK ON HIM NOW.

HE COUN-TERED IT...

INCREDI-BLE.

THIS FELLOW IS QUITE THE CATCH.

LOOKS LIKE IT WAS WORTH COMING ALL THE WAY OUT HERE.

...

YOU *ARE* STRONG...

THORS...

FFFH...

FORGIVE ME, ASKELADD.

I CAN NO LONGER SPARE YOU THE BRUNT OF MY STRENGTH.

HA HA...

I'M GLAD TO HAVE MET YOU, THORS.

DNFF

GING

GRAK

KCHING

RATTLE RATTLE

INNNGG...

DYAH!

WHAT?

HOLD ON...

WOOM

GYIN GG

SMAK

THUD

ZSHH
HOP
BOOM
WHOA!
KDAMM
HOP
!!
KCHI
ING

RA-AHA

KING KTING

EVEN THEIR LEADER CAN'T STAND UP TO HIM!!

UNBE-LIEVABLE! THORS IS PUSH-ING HIM AROUND!!

I'D SAY HE'S BIDING HIS TIME, WAITING FOR HIS CHANCE.

HE CAN'T STRIKE, BUT HE'S BLOCKING EACH AND EVERY BLOW.

NO WAY!

D-DOES IT LOOK LIKE ASKE-LADD'S IN TROUBLE TO YOU?

GET HIM! KILL HIM!!

FATH-ERRRR!!

GRING

GAK

GAK

GAK

CRICKLE...

!

IT'LL GIVE WAY SOON ENOUGH!

SHIT! HE WAS AFTER MY BLADE!

...HIS MUST BE FEELING THE EFFECTS AS WELL...

BUT THAT MEANS...

SHH

ZWIP

YES! THE RIGHT BREAST!!

FWOOM

KIIING

HE USED HIS ARMOR TO-!

WHAT?!

ONCE YOU KNOW A MAN'S INTENTIONS, YOU CAN READ HIS SWINGS.

YOU'RE *MINE*, THORS!!

STOMP

THERE IT IS!

THE BIG SWING!

KUNK

BWING6

WHA-?!

SNATCH

KICK

SH WIP

...

TCH...

HE FOOLED ME...

HE WAS WAITING FOR ME TO LOWER MY GUARD AND TAKE A HEALTHY HACK AT HIM.

HE WAS *TRYING* TO SNAP HIS OWN SWORD...

THE ENTIRE FIGHT WENT ACCORDING TO *HIS* SCRIPT, NOT MINE.

DAMN IT ALL...

I DANCED TO HIS TUNE LIKE A FOOL...

IN YOUR UGLY FACE!!

YAHOO !!

WELL DONE, THORS!!

RAAHHH

KILL ME.

...WHY DO YOU HESI-TATE?

ALL I WANT IS YOUR SURRENDER.

THERE IS NO NEED.

THE ONE THING I *CAN'T* DO IS ADMIT DEFEAT BEFORE THEM.

I'M THE LEADER OF THESE MEN.

WHY DON'T YOU JUST KILL ME?

IF YOU DON'T KILL ME...

...THIS DUEL WILL NEVER END.

CHAPTER 14 - END

CHAPTER 15: A TRUE WARRIOR

DID OUR LEADER... ACTUALLY...

DO I DARE BELIEVE MY EYES?!

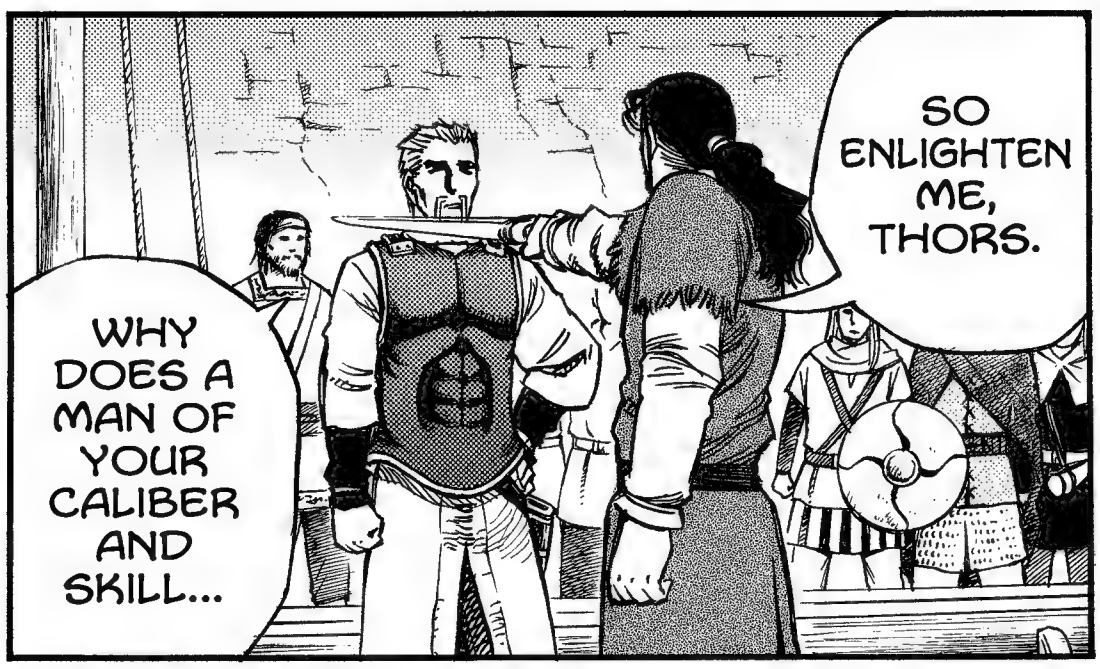
...LOSE?!

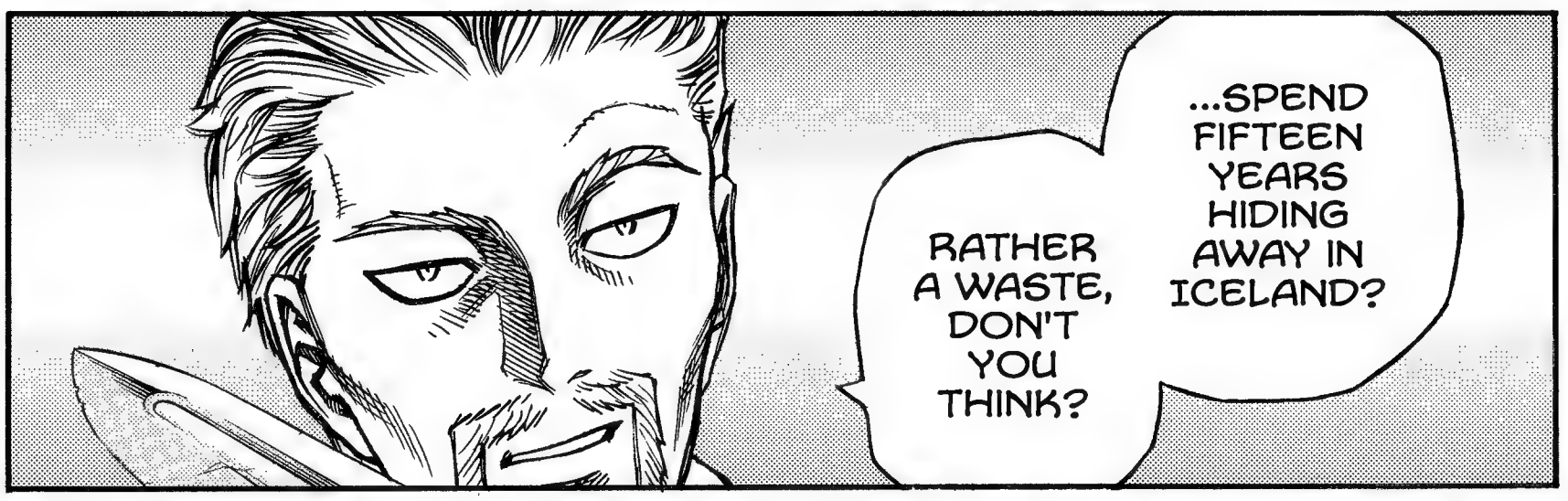
TAKE YOUR MEN AND LEAVE THIS PLACE AT ONCE, AS YOU SWORE TO ODIN!

CONCEDE THE FIGHT!

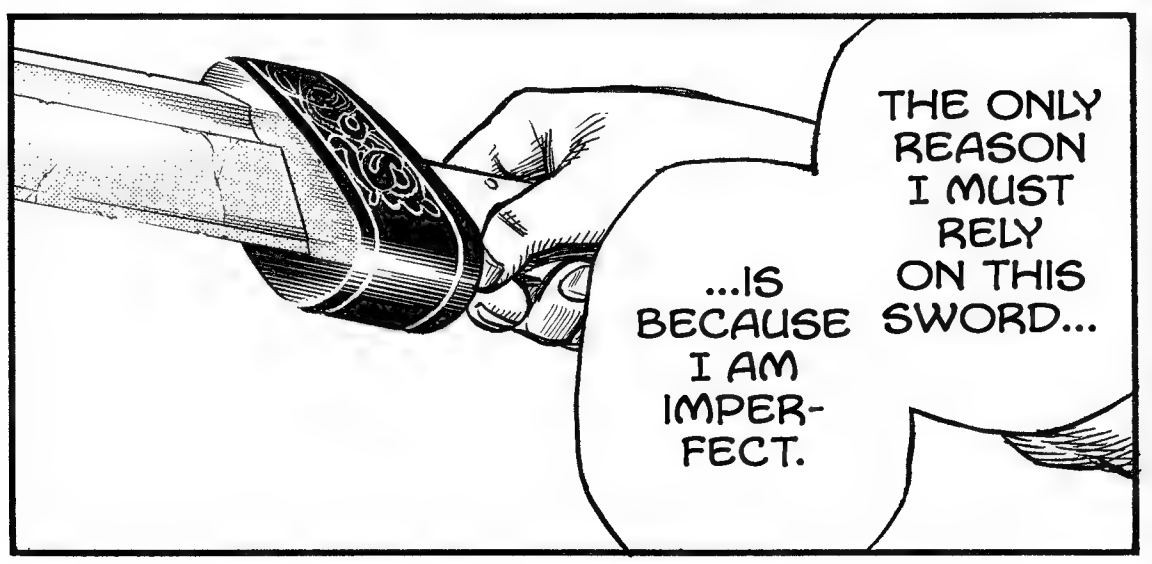
I HAVE WON THIS DUEL.

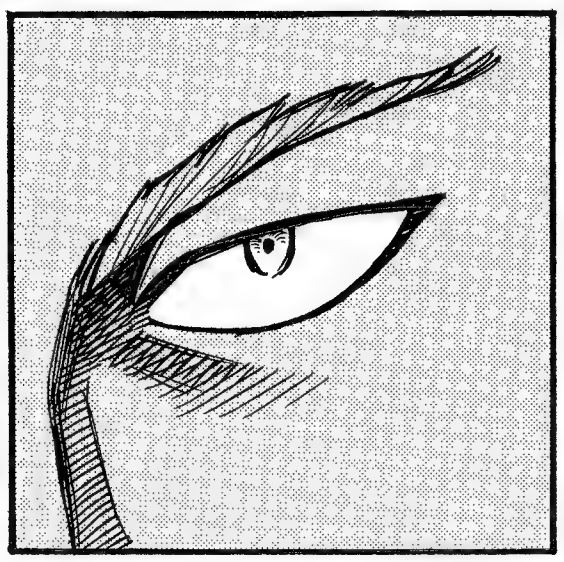
NGH...
MY HEAD...
MMH...
LURCH...
TCH...
WHAT?
WHAT'S GOING ON??
TRULY CAPABLE OF LEADING A GREAT FORCE.
YOU ARE A MIGHTY MAN INDEED, THORS.


WHY DOES A MAN OF YOUR CALIBER AND SKILL...
SO ENLIGHTEN ME, THORS.


...SPEND FIFTEEN YEARS HIDING AWAY IN ICELAND?
RATHER A WASTE, DON'T YOU THINK?

I DON'T.


THE ONLY REASON I MUST RELY ON THIS SWORD...
...IS BECAUSE I AM IMPER-FECT.



A TRUE WAR-RIOR...
...NEEDS NO SWORD.

WHAT'S THAT MEAN?

DUNNO ...

MAYBE HE CAN KILL A MAN WITH HIS BARE HANDS, TOO?

?

...

SEEMS MY NOSE...

...WAS POINTING ME IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION AFTER ALL.

...WILL YOU LEAD OUR BAND?

THORS...

WHAT?!

...

...

C'MON, WHERE ARE MY LAUGHS? DOES NOBODY GET A JOKE AROUND HERE?

JUUUST KIDDING! ♪

SCARED ME FOR A SECOND ...

MURMUR...

EH?

OH.

A JOKE?

KICK

...SHOULD KNOW ...

...THIS IS NO TIME...

...YOU...

...FOR TELLING JOKES !!

HEAD

THUMP
!
SNAG
!

NO-BODY MOVE !!

YOU SO MUCH AS TWITCH, AND THE BOY LOSES HIS HEAD!!

ASKELADD, YOU BASTARD!!

I KNOW YOU CAN SEE ME, THORS!! DROP THE SWORD!!

DO IT NOW !!

HNG!

FATHER !!

HEH.

HA HA HA HA!

HONESTLY, WHAT DID YOU EXPECT, THORS?

DID YOU REALLY TAKE US FOR HONORABLE GENTLEMEN, BOUND TO THE CUSTOMS OF THE DUEL?

I PLAYED YOUR GAME AND HAD MY FUN.

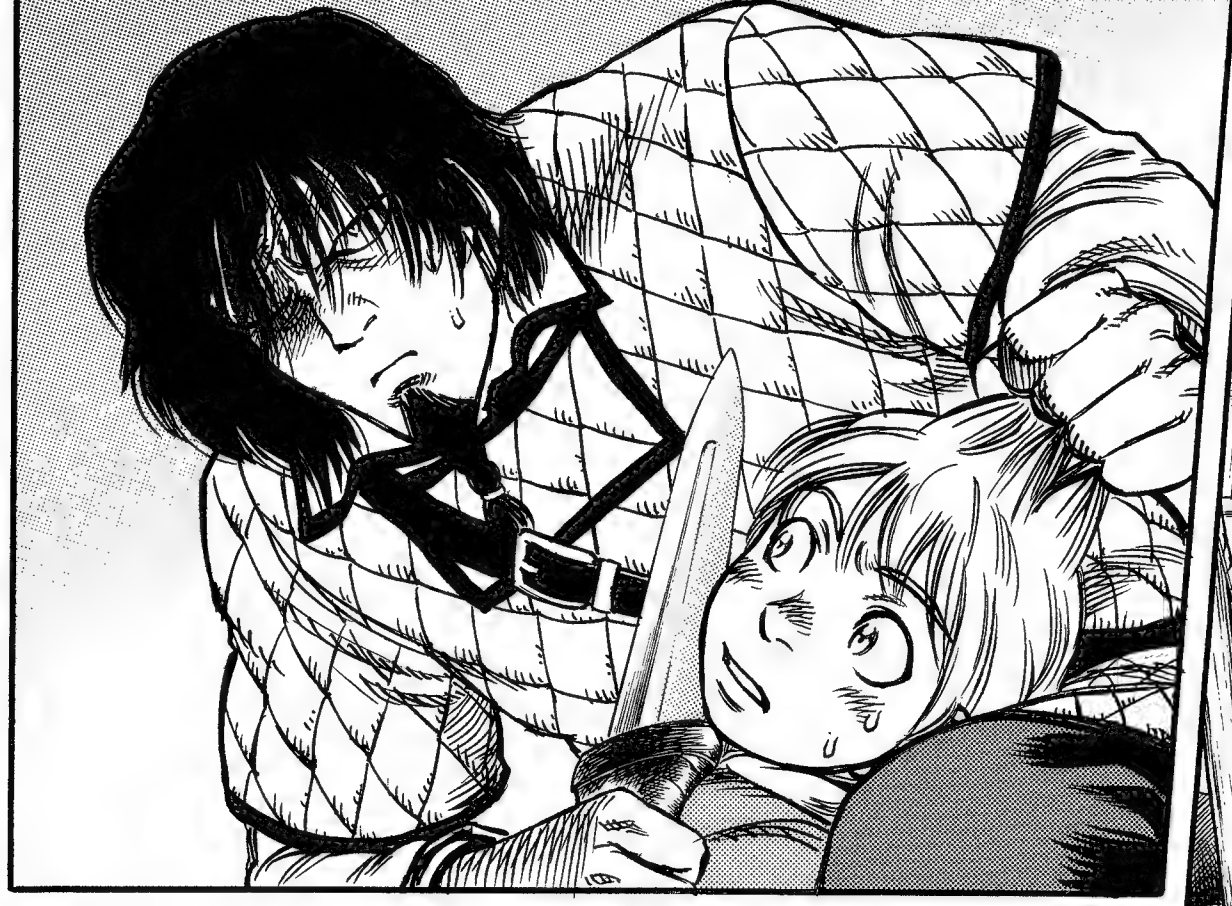
I WANTED TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE NOTORIOUS TROLL OF JOM.

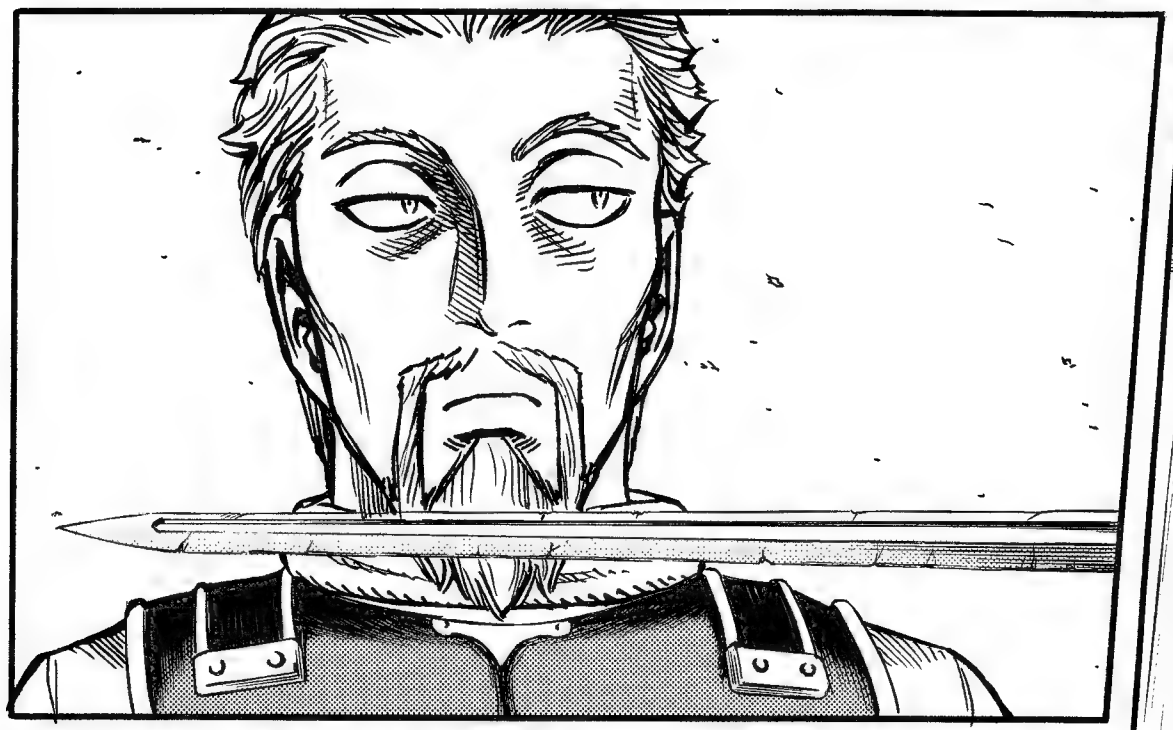
IT WAS WORTH MY TIME.

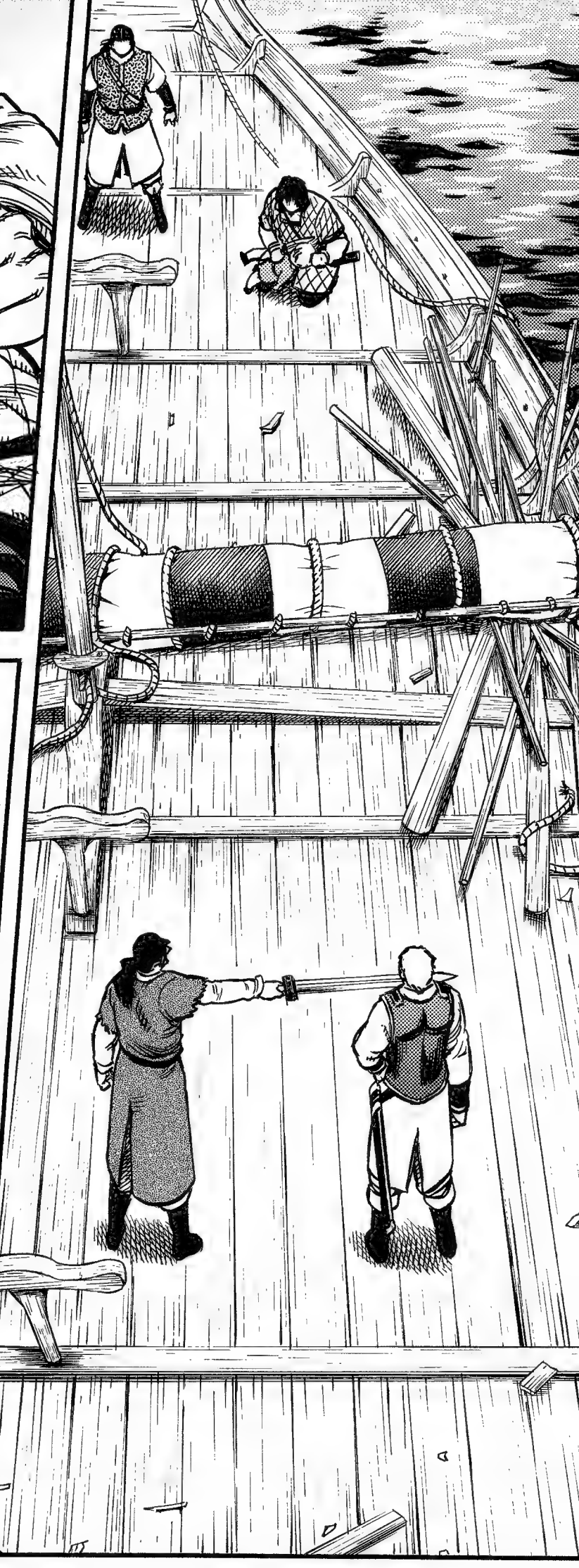
WHOOSH

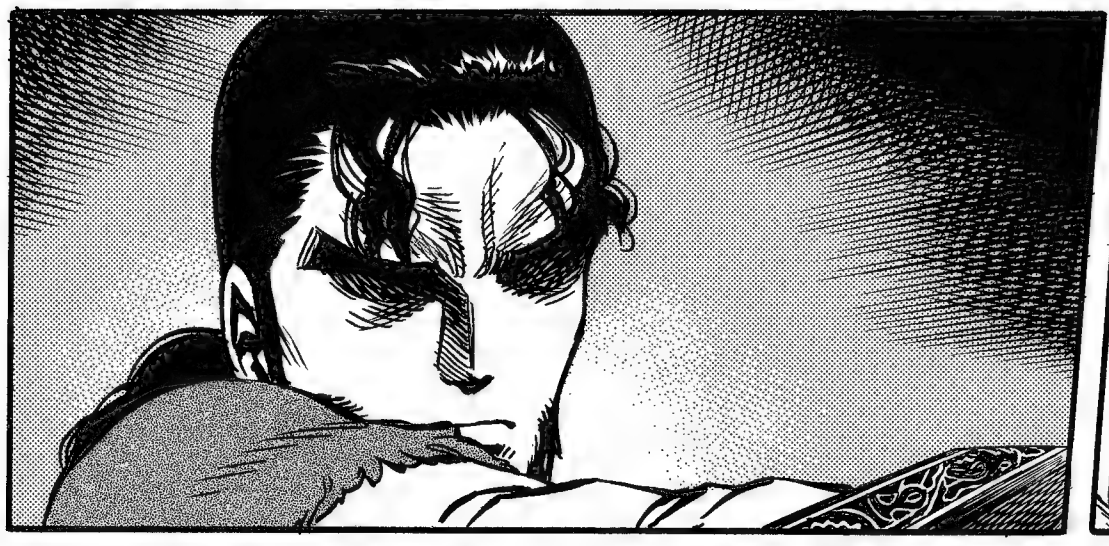
STOP

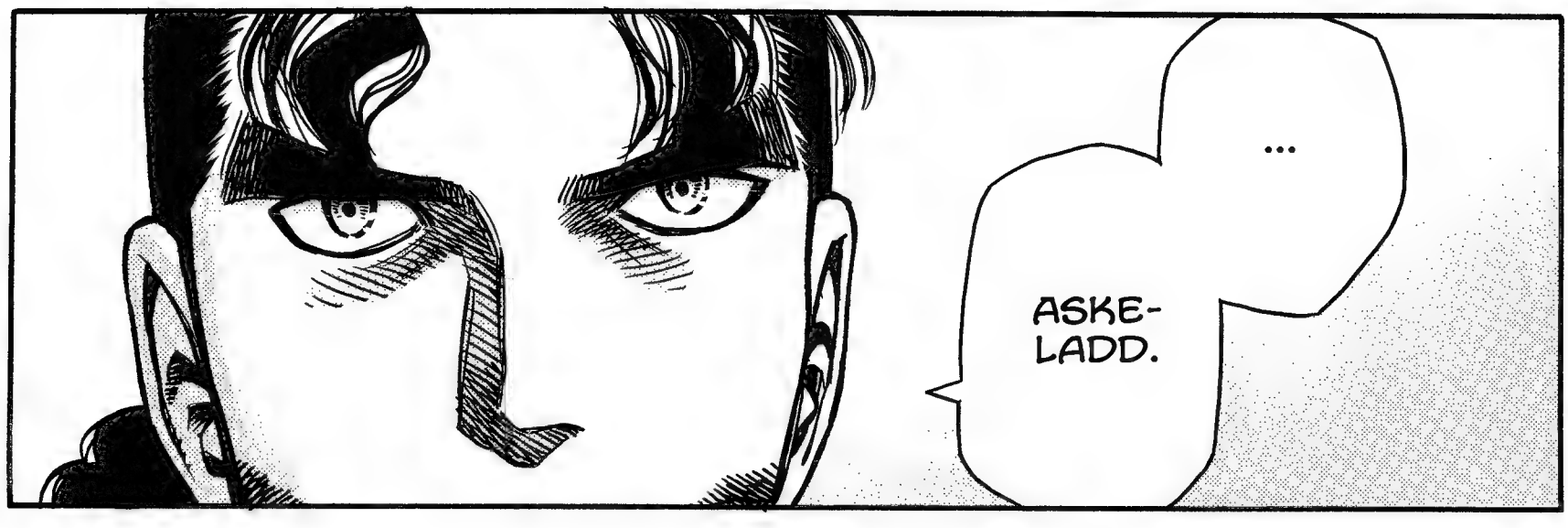
!!










...
ASKE-
LADD.

YOU HAVE VIOLATED THE RULES OF THE DUEL.

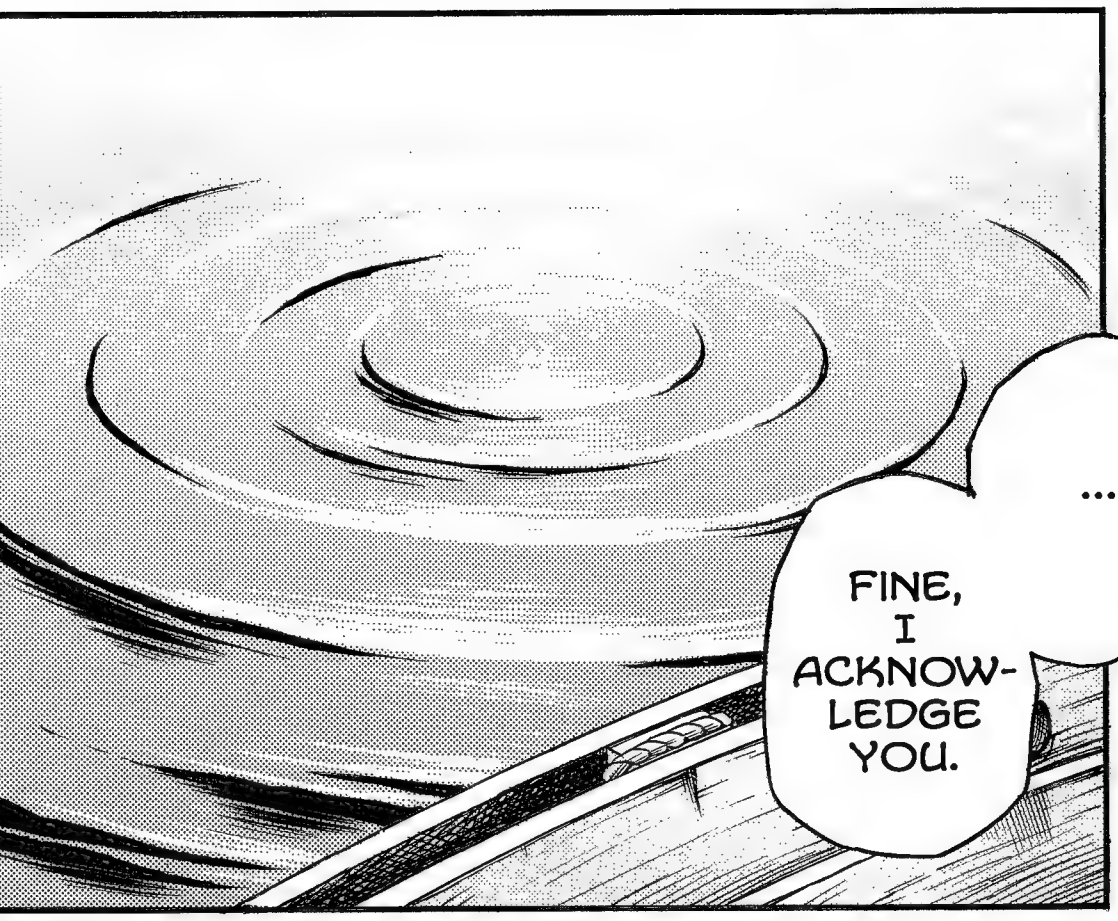
I AM THE WINNER.

ALL I WANT IS YOUR LIFE.

IT DOESN'T MATTER TO ME EITHER WAY.

I KNOW THAT.

SPLASH


...
FINE, I ACKNOW-LEDGE YOU.

SHH...
...THIS DUEL.
YOU WIN...

WOOM

BABAM

BAMM

THUD

THUD

THUD

THUD

FATHER !!

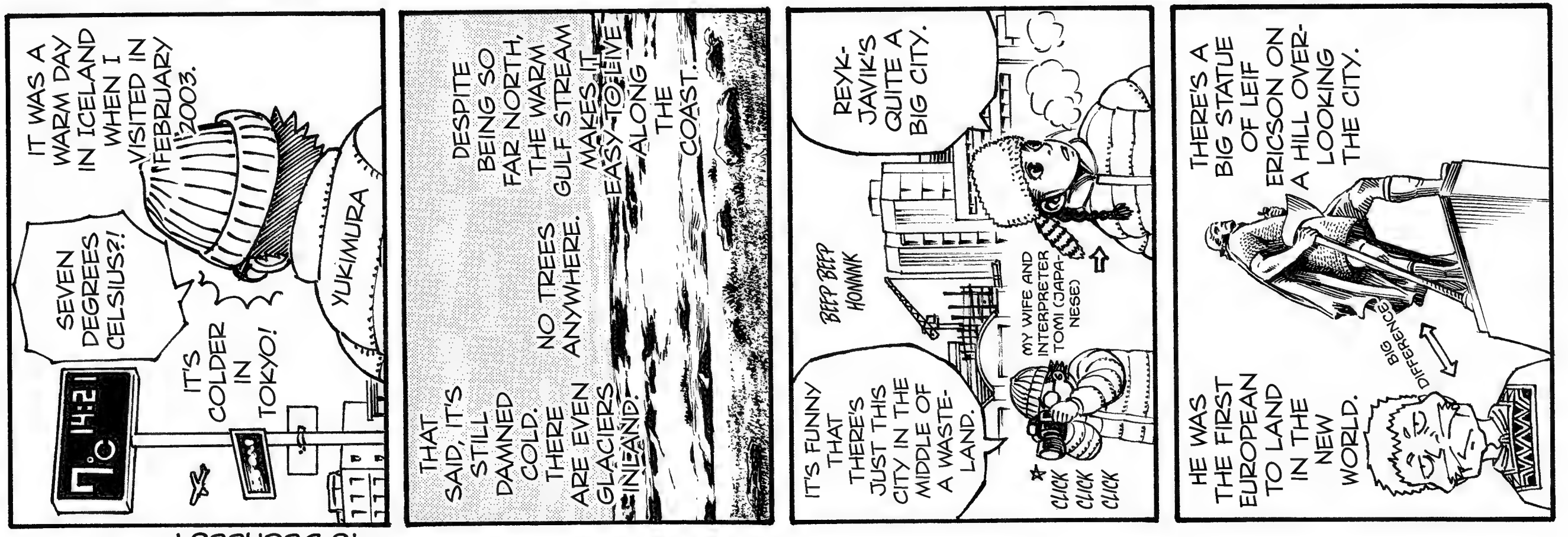
CHAPTER 15 - END

I RAN OUT OF IDEAS FOR YLVA, SO INSTEAD, HERE'S A

SPECIAL REPORT

I WENT TO THE LAND OF AURORA BOREALIS

BY:
MAKOTO YUKIMURA


IT WAS A WARM DAY IN ICELAND WHEN I VISITED IN FEBRUARY 2003.
7°C 14:21
SEVEN DEGREES CELSIUS?!
IT'S COLDER IN TOKYO!
YUKIMURA
* 45 DEGREES F
DESPITE BEING SO FAR NORTH, THE WARM GULF STREAM MAKES IT EASY-TO-LIVE ALONG THE COAST.
THAT SAID, IT'S STILL DAMNED COLD. THERE ARE EVEN GLACIERS INLAND. NO TREES ANYWHERE.
BEEP BEEP HONNNK
REYK-JAVIK'S QUITE A BIG CITY.
IT'S FUNNY THAT THERE'S JUST THIS CITY IN THE MIDDLE OF A WASTE-LAND.
MY WIFE AND INTERPRETER TOMI (JAPA-NESE)
CLICK CLICK CLICK
THERE'S A BIG STATUE OF LEIF ERICSON ON A HILL OVER-LOOKING THE CITY.
HE WAS THE FIRST EUROPEAN TO LAND IN THE NEW WORLD.
BIG DIFFERENCE

FEAR THE SCANDIES!
QUITE SLENDER
HA HA HA
AT THE NEXT TABLE, A YOUNG WOMAN ATE AN EXTRA-LARGE PIZZA THAT WOULD HAVE SERVED THREE OR FOUR JAPANESE, WITH A MASSIVE SUNDAE FOR DESSERT.
HOLY COW.

THINGVELLIR NATIONAL PARK, AN ANCIENT VIKING GATHERING PLACE
DURING THE DAY, WE TRAVELED AROUND TAKING PHOTOS FOR REFERENCE.

ALPER THE MANAGER. LOVES JAPAN.
DID YOU SEE THE AURORA?
IT WAS GORGEOUS!
BACK AT THE HOTEL...

WE HEARD THAT YOU SHOULD SEE IT AT LEAST ONCE EVERY THREE NIGHTS, BUT...
AT NIGHT, WE GAZED UP AT THE SKY, HOPING TO SEE THE AURORA BOREALIS.
I'M FREEZING.

THIS WAS THE ONLY TIME DURING OUR THREE-DAY TRIP THAT THE AURORA WAS VISIBLE.
ARE YOU KIDDING ME?!
IT HAPPENED DURING THE FEW DOZEN MINUTES WE SPENT EATING.

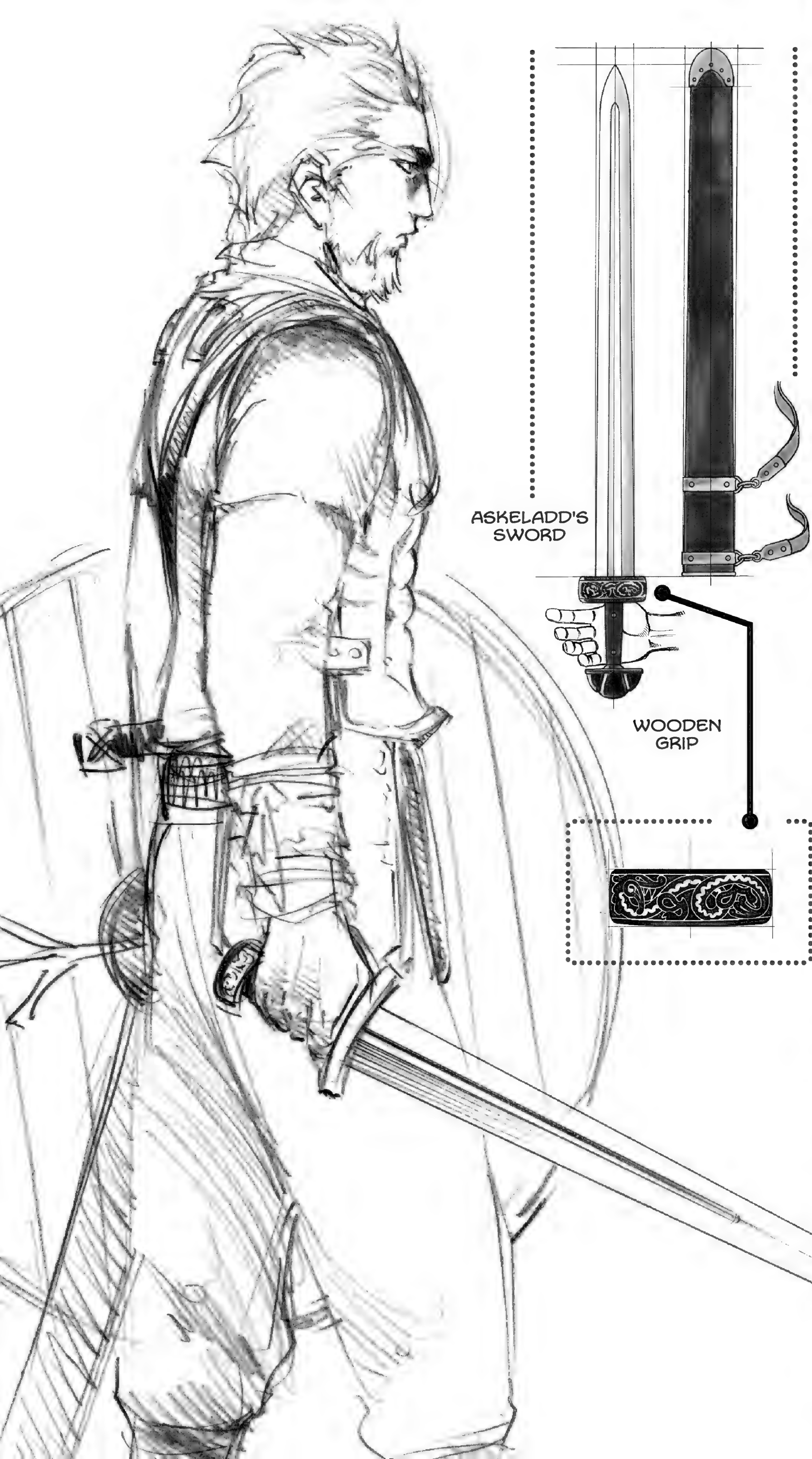
I'M HUNGRY ...
... NO AURORA.

IT WAS A RATHER SURREAL SIGHT.
IT'S A GAME-CUBE!
SIDE NOTE
ON THE MAIN ROADS OF THE WORLD'S NORTHERN-MOST CAPITAL, I EVEN SAW JAPANESE-MADE VIDEO GAME CONSOLES.

WAIT A SECOND, HUBBY!
THESE MUTTON CHOPS ARE FANTASTIC !!
CHOMP CHOMP
EVERYTHING WE ATE IN NORTHERN EUROPE WAS DELICIOUS, ESPECIALLY THE SALMON AND...

ASKELADD

SUPPLE-MENTAL DESIGNS



AFTERWORD

Despite its breezier appearance, all that chainmail the Vikings wear weighs about forty-five pounds. The swords and axes add six to eight pounds each, and once the iron helmets, wooden shields and short swords are added in, the entire equipment tops out at over sixty-five pounds. I tried to wear all that armor myself and I could barely walk, much less fight. I'm truly grateful that I wasn't born in the age of the Vikings. Those guys are monsters.

MAKOTO YUKIMURA

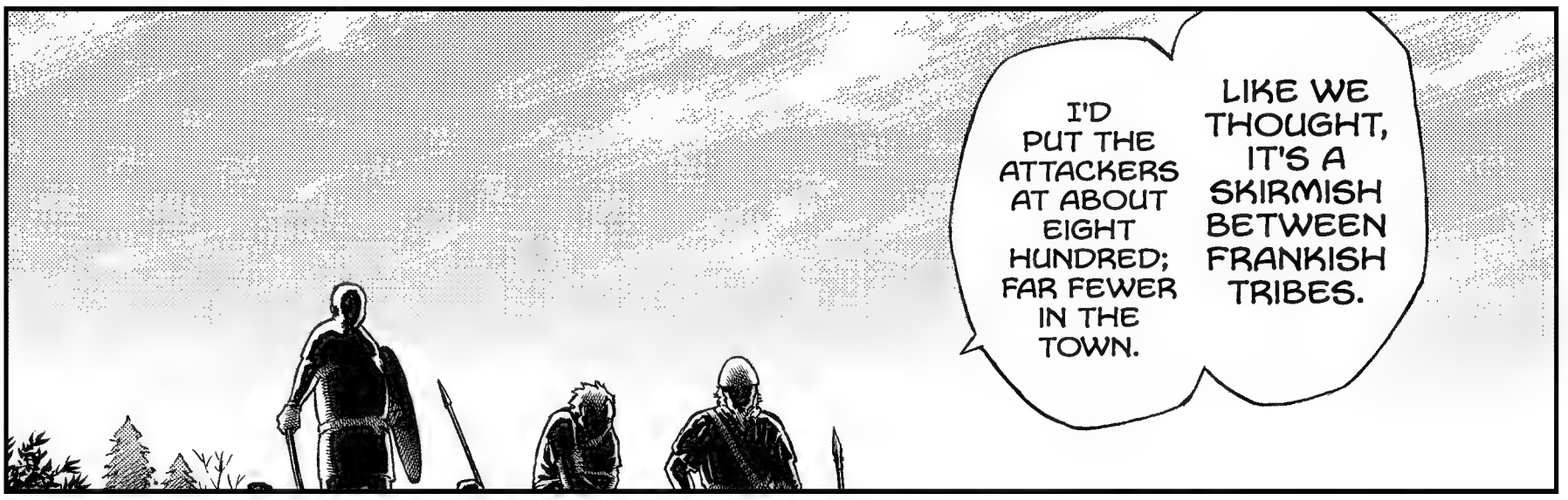
VINLAND SAGA

Translation Notes

Normanni, page 2

The Latin form for "men of the North," also known as Norsemen, Northmen, Normans, etc.

Frankish Kingdom, page 4

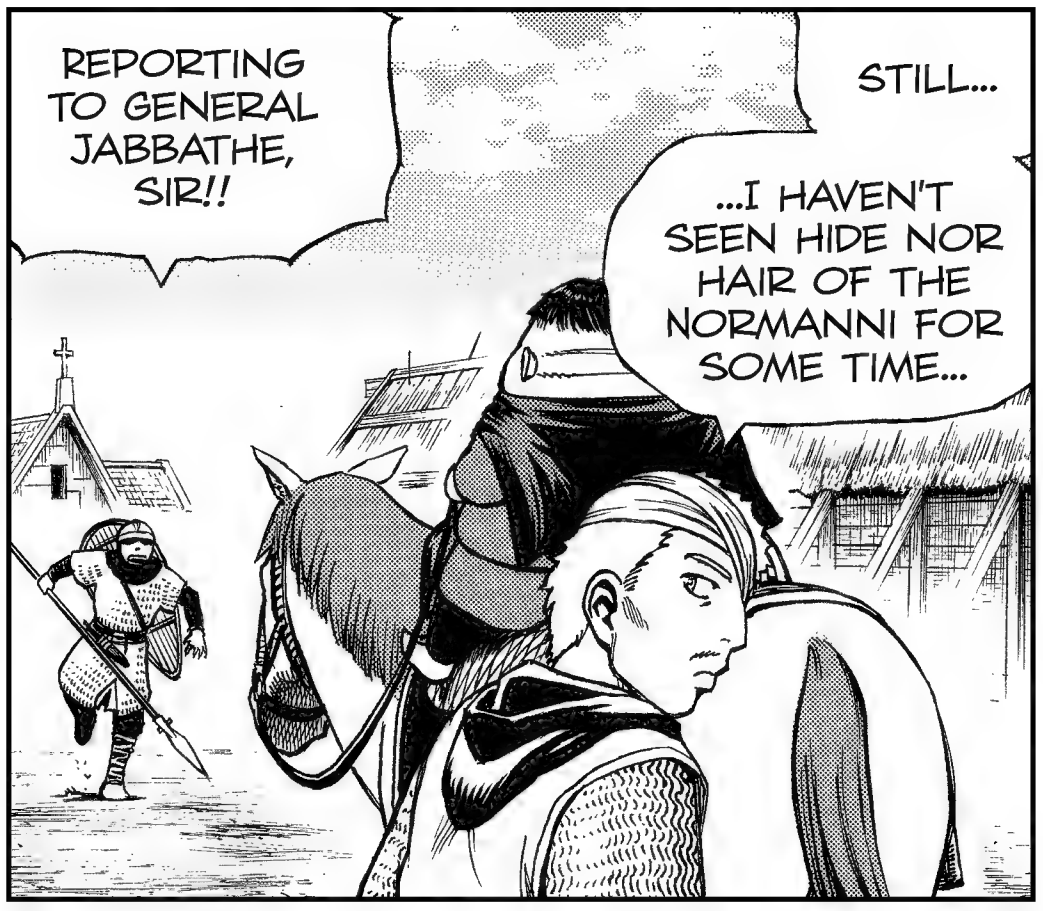


Strictly speaking, the Frankish Kingdom as it is defined today — France under the Carolingian dynasty made notable by Charlesmagne — did not exist as a state in the 11th century. Rather, it was a decentralized period where princes and other lords held regional power, while the king was more of a religious figure. The key word here is "territory," i.e., land that was previously the realm of the Frankish Kingdom. The establishment of the Capet Dynasty in 987 created the first predecessor to what we define as France today.

Tyr, page 15

The Norse god of law, justice and war. By some accounts — the backgrounds, positions and importance of gods shift throughout history according to location and time period — Tyr is the son of Odin. He is invoked in this scene to emphasize the apparent truthfulness of the claim.

General Jabbathe, page 71



It should be noted that in the Japanese language, titles such as king, lord, president, and so on are always placed after the name rather than before. Thus, General Jabbathe appears as "Jabbathe-shogun," where shogun is the word for a military commander. I'll leave it to the reader's discretion to discern the meaning (or lack thereof) behind this particular choice.

Jörmungand, page 139

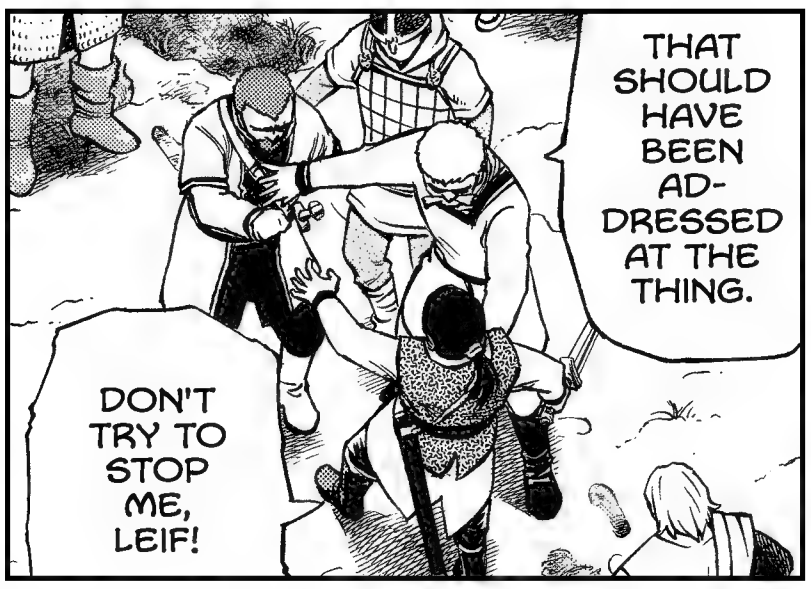
...THAT THE GREAT SERPENT JÖRMUNGAND PROWLS THE SEAS TO THE WEST AND GOBBLES UP EVERY SHIP THAT VEN-TURES TOO CLOSE!
MY GRAND-PA TOLD ME...
WRIGGLE

Also known as the Midgard Serpent, a variant on the Ouroboros theme of a snake eating its own tail. Jörmungand is a sea serpent that encircles the globe and served as a likely explanation for ships going lost at sea.

Knarr, page 153

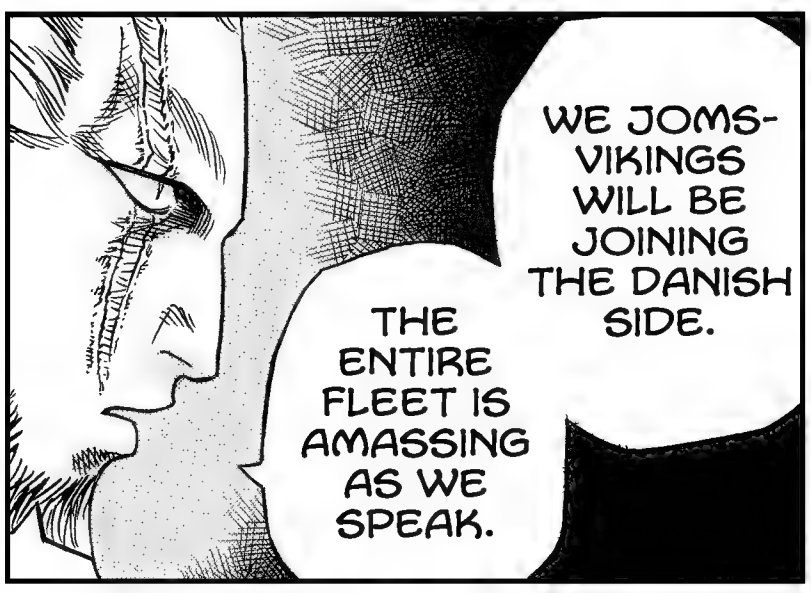
A type of cargo ship used by Viking merchants. A knarr (plural knerrir) was wider and deeper than the famous longships used for raiding, which made it more suitable for ferrying goods, food and livestock.

Thing, page 174



Thing is the Norse/Icelandic word for "gathering." They were community meetings where legal grievances were addressed, among other things. The Althing was a national gathering of village representatives traditionally held at the Thingvellir plain starting in 930 A.D. with the founding of the Icelandic Commonwealth. This democratic structure was partly motivated by the desire to escape the authoritarian rule of King Harald of Norway. The Althing survived and is the official parliament of Iceland today, albeit in modern form.

Jomsvikings, page 207

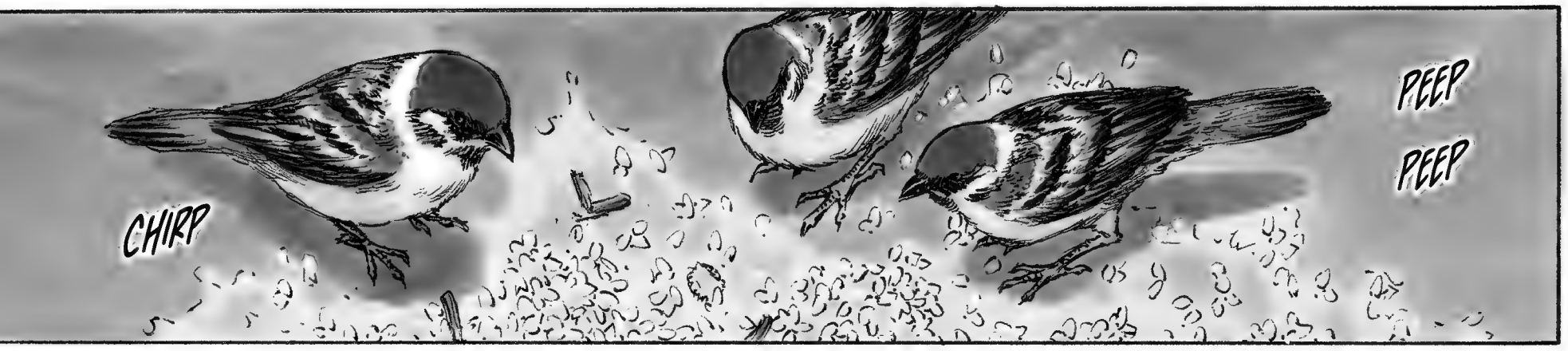


A legendary band of Viking mercenaries recounted in various Scandinavian epics. According to those legends, the Jomsvikings were active in the 10th and 11th centuries, but lack of primary evidence has led to debate over whether they truly existed or not.

Thingvellir National Park, page 229

The original home of the Althing, Iceland's historical meeting place in which matters of government were discussed and decided. The park, located in southwest Iceland, was officially founded in 1930 to preserve the historic site.

BONUS STORY: FOR OUR FAREWELL IS NEAR



CHIP
CHIP
PEEP
CHIRP
PEEP
PEEP
PEEP
PEEP
CHIRP
CHIP
CHIRP

誠

For Our Farewell Is Near, Part 1
By Makoto Yukimura

Introduction

At the end of the Edo Period, the arrival of the "black ships" from abroad spelled the end of 260 years of isolation enforced by the shogunate. In response to the shogunate's desire to open the country's borders, disgruntled regional forces loyal to the emperor, such as the Choshu Domain, planned a rebellion. The imperial loyalists massed in Kyoto, where the emperor lived, growing increasingly bold until the city became, in effect, a lawless area. In an effort to restore order, the shogunate recruited ronin (masterless samurai) in Edo (now Tokyo) and sent them to Kyoto.

Among these men were Kondo Isami and Okita Soji, students at the Shieikan dojo in Tama. Upon reaching Kyoto, they formed the Shinsengumi under the orders of the daimyo of Aizu Domain, who had been charged with keeping the peace in the city. But, unable to reverse the tide of history, the shogunate lost power, and the Shinsengumi was defeated at the Battle of Toba-Fushimi. By 1868, Kondo and Okita had fled to Edo. Okita's body was already wracked with tuberculosis at this time.

Note:

This story first appeared in 2004 in Kodansha's Evening magazine. This is the first time it has been published in English.

SOJI-SAN, SOMEONE'S HERE TO WISH YOU A SPEEDY RECOVERY...

OH!

BUT, SISTER ...

I HAVE NO APPETITE TO SPEAK OF.

NOT AGAIN!

HOW CAN YOU JUST WASTE YOUR FOOD LIKE THIS?!

CHIRP

PEEP

PEEP

SHE'S RIGHT, SOJI.

YOU OUGHTN'T CAUSE OMITSU-SAN SUCH TROUBLE.

WELL, YOU'RE NOT GOING TO GET ANY BETTER IF YOU DON'T GET SOME NUTRITION.

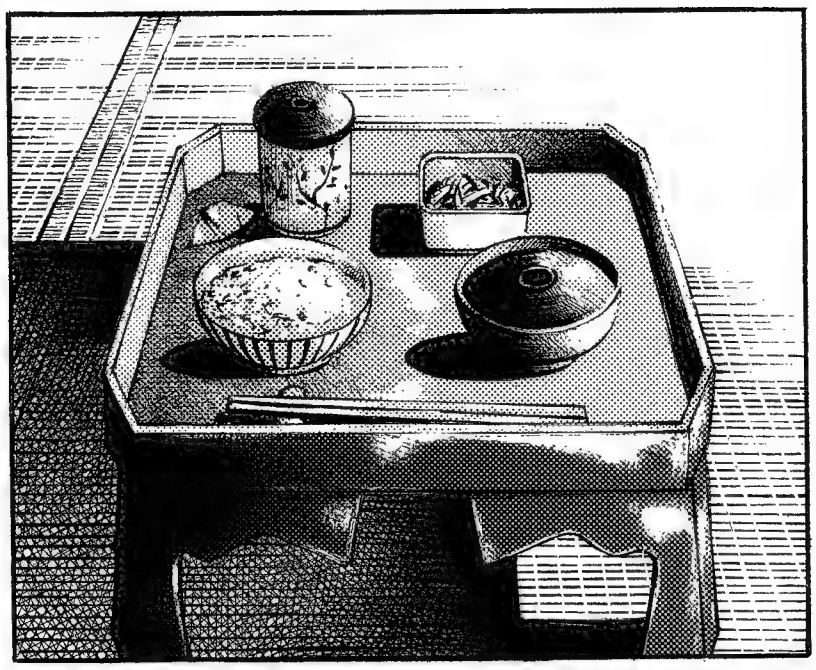
YOU SHOULD KNOW BETTER; YOU'RE NOT A CHILD.

HELLO THERE, SOJI.

KONDO-SAN?

HOW'S HE BEEN DOING?

I SAID I HAD NO APPETITE.



THE DOCTOR SAYS THAT IF HE STOPS EATING ALTO-GETHER...

HE EATS LESS AND LESS EVERY DAY.

THAT IS A TER-RIBLE SHAME.

I SEE.

.....

6

HEY! NOT AGAIN!!

SOJI-

TWEET

CHIRP

PEEP PEEP

SPLATCH

WELL? EAT.

PEEK

.....

DON'T MIND ME.

BESIDES, YOU SHOULDN'T WASTE YOUR FOOD LIKE THAT. IT'S BAD KARMA.

I'M NOT GOING TO FIND MY APPETITE WITH YOU STARING AT ME, KONDO-SAN.

.....

...IS IT THAT BAD?

SLURP...

AND THAT'S IF THEY EAT AT ALL.

THE MEN IN BATTLE ARE FIGHTING ON WORSE THAN DOG SCRAPS.

YEAH, YEAH, YEAH.

PREACH PREACH PREACH

7

ARE THE SHOGUN'S MEN SO OUT-MATCHED THEY'RE RUNNING OUT OF FOOD?

I MEAN THE BATTLE.

THE SHIN-SEN-GUMI...

DON'T BE SILLY. IF YOU EAT PROPERLY, YOU'LL BE BACK ON YOUR FEET IN NO TIME.

I'M NOT TALKING ABOUT ME, KONDO-SAN.

GULP

A LIFE SPENT BETWEEN THE BED, GARDEN, AND PRIVY...

...IS NOT MUCH OF A LIFE.

I'M LACKING FOR CONVER-SATION.

THAT'S NOT THE SOJI I KNOW.

YOU NEVER CARED A WHIT ABOUT THE STATE OF THE NATION BEFORE.

SINCE FUSHIMI, THE SHOGUN'S ARMY HAS BEEN BEATEN IN SPIRIT.

THE REBELS OF SATSUMA AND CHOSHU ARE MARCHING HERE, TO EDO.

8

...THE SHIN-SENGUMI MUST SHOW THE TRUE WAY.

WHICH IS WHY...

A MAN'S TRUE COLORS SHOW IN TIMES OF CRISIS.

EVERY CLAN HAS LOST ITS HONOR. MEN TURN AND BETRAY THEIR FELLOWS, LEFT AND RIGHT.

THE SAMURAI ARE DYING OUT.

THE TRUE WAY...

...YOU SAY?

TWEET

CHIRP

PEEP

LORD YOSHI-NOBU MIGHT GIVE UP, BUT I NEVER WILL.

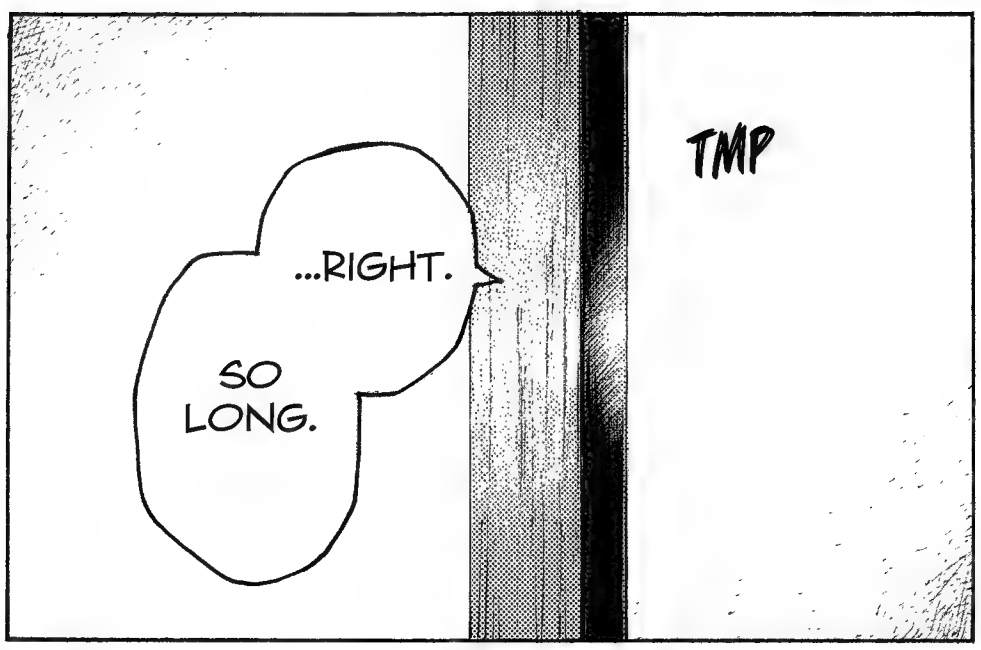
I WILL TRAVEL TO KAI WITH THE SHIN-SEN-GUMI.

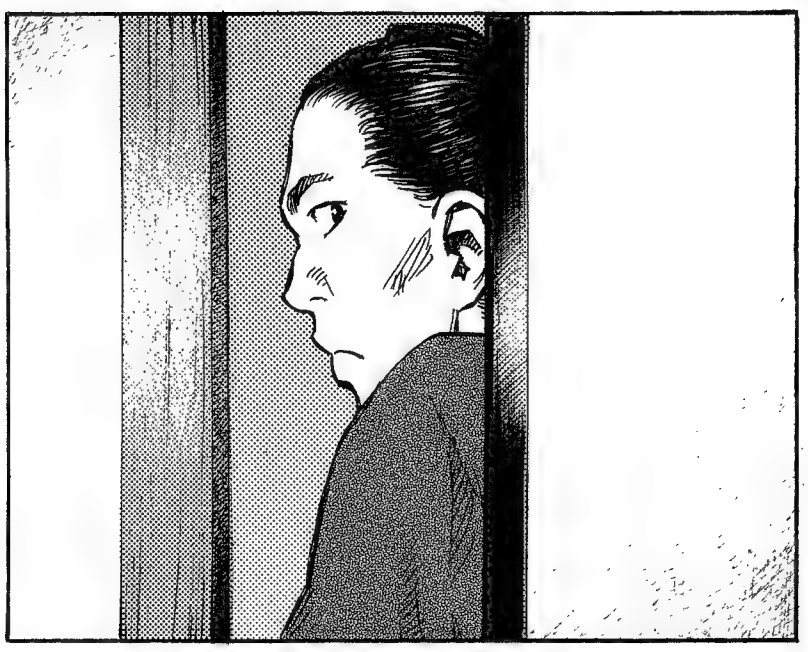
I'LL GATHER MORE MEN AND SLAY EVERY LAST REBEL TO BE FOUND.

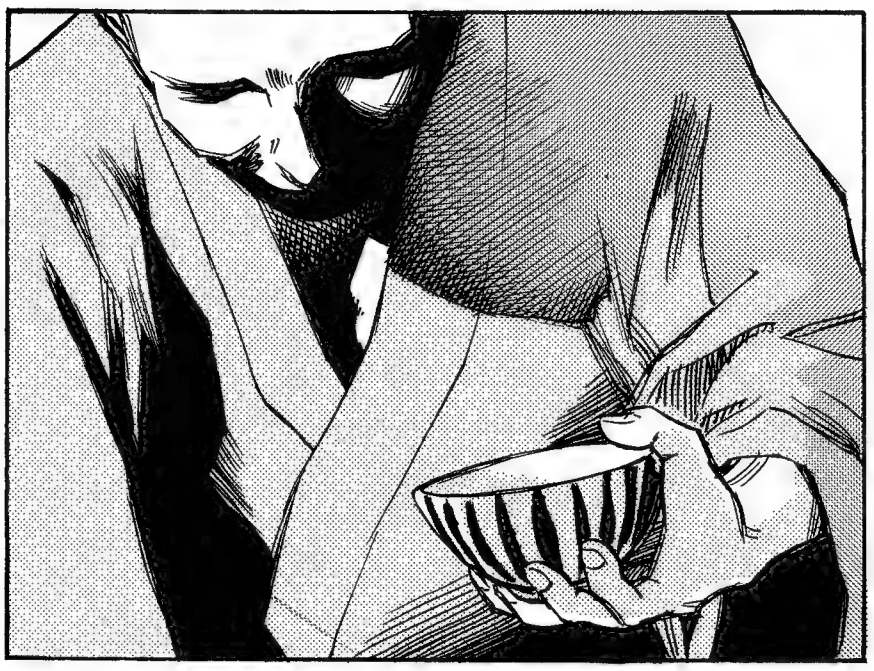
9

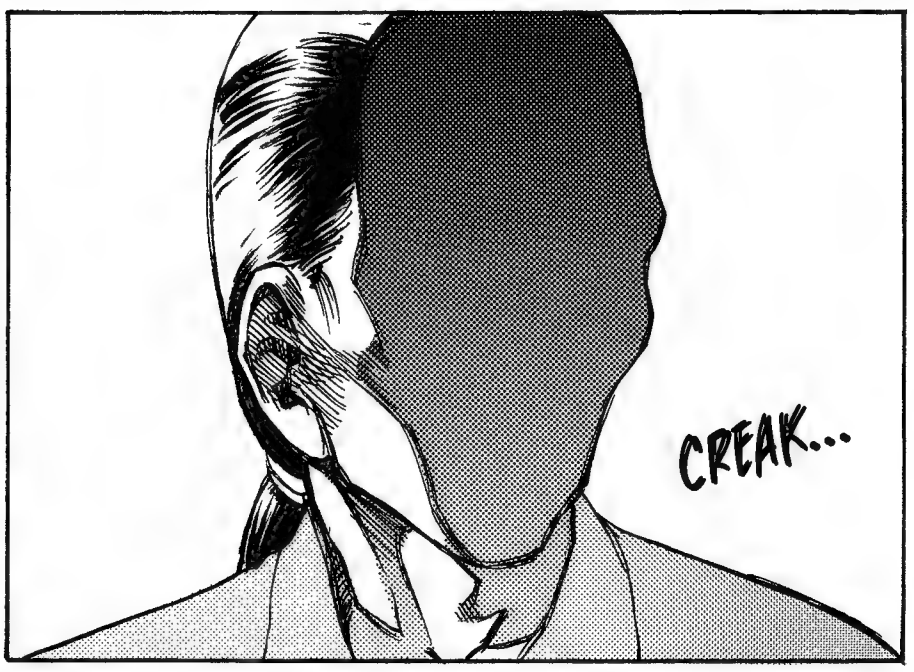
EAT AND REGAIN YOUR STRENGTH, SOJI.

UNTIL NEXT TIME.









TO BE CONTINUED IN VINLAND SAGA, BOOK TWO

MAKOTO YUKIMURA GETS AN AWARD

In 2010, creator Makoto Yukimura received a Japan Media Arts Award for "Vinland Saga." He decided to accept the award in style. On the following pages, we present a few snapshots from the awards ceremony.

Vinland Saga volume 1 is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the products of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is entirely coincidental.

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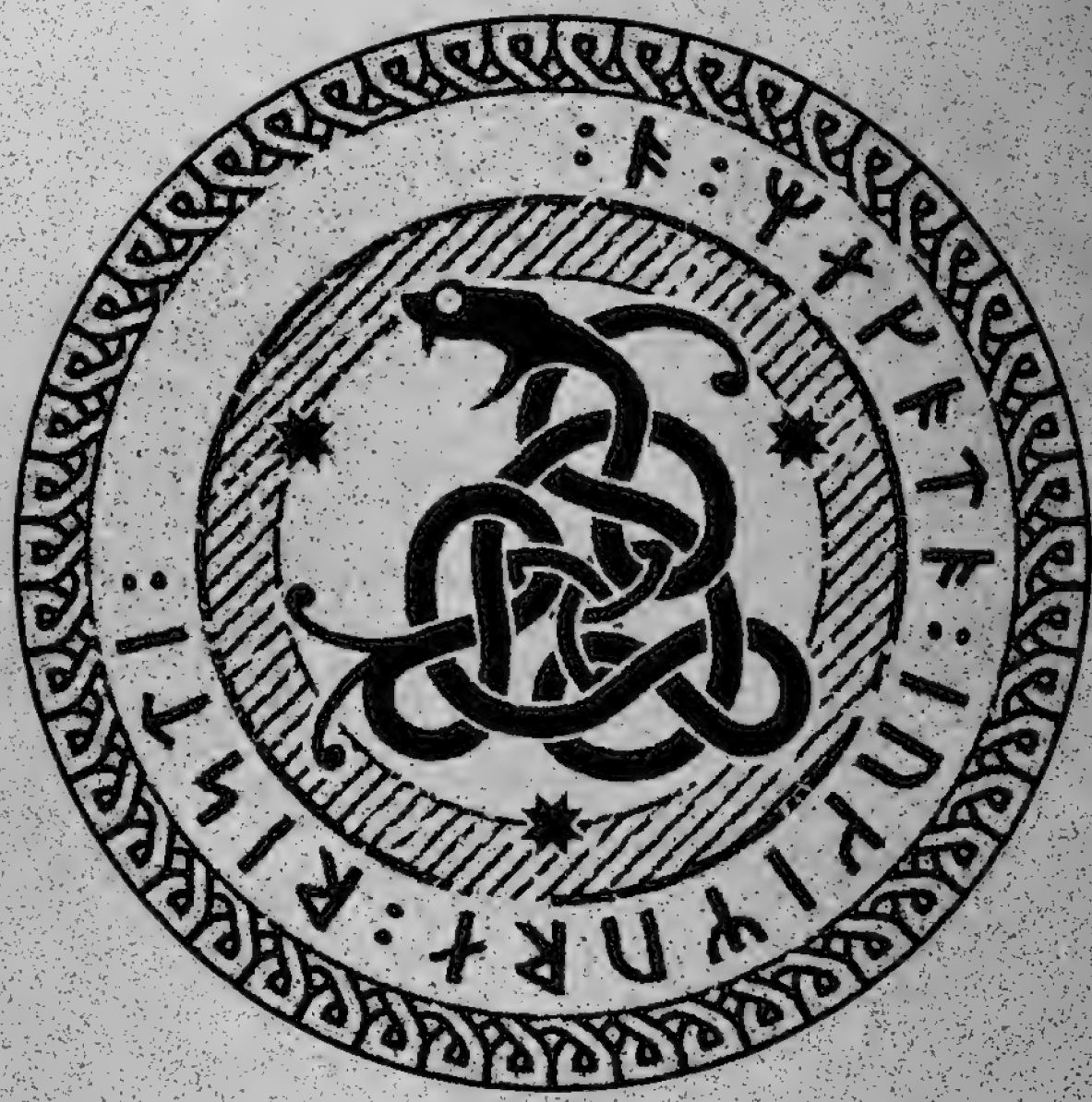


www.kodanshacomics.com/vinland

CHAPTER 16: THE DEATH OF THORS

SHK...

...FATHER
...

...

ASKELADD...

I'VE WON THIS BATTLE.

HONOR YOUR WARRIOR'S OATH.

...I WILL WITH-DRAW MY MEN AT ONCE.

IN THE NAME OF MY ANCESTOR, ARTORIUS...

UNDER-STOOD.

I MUST ASK YOU TO DELIVER A MESSAGE.

LEIF...

IF HE BELIEVES THAT I CHOSE TO HIDE RATHER THAN HONOR HIS SUMMONS, MY VILLAGE WILL PAY A TERRIBLE PRICE.

...AND TELL HIM I WAS SLAIN BY PIRATES.

BRING MY HEAD TO SIGVALDI, CHIEFTAIN OF JOM...

YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS !!

YOU...

I GIVE YOU MY LIFE, JUST AS YOU DEMANDED.

YOU THERE.

HFF!

HFF!

SO *DROP* THE BOY.

FATHER!

POP

...

SHIVER

THWUMP

WAAAAHH

W

HAM

FATHER !!

PAT

PHEWWW—

THANK...

...THE GODS...

DM DM DM DM
AR AAAHHHH
WHOOSH
TSK.

CRUNCH

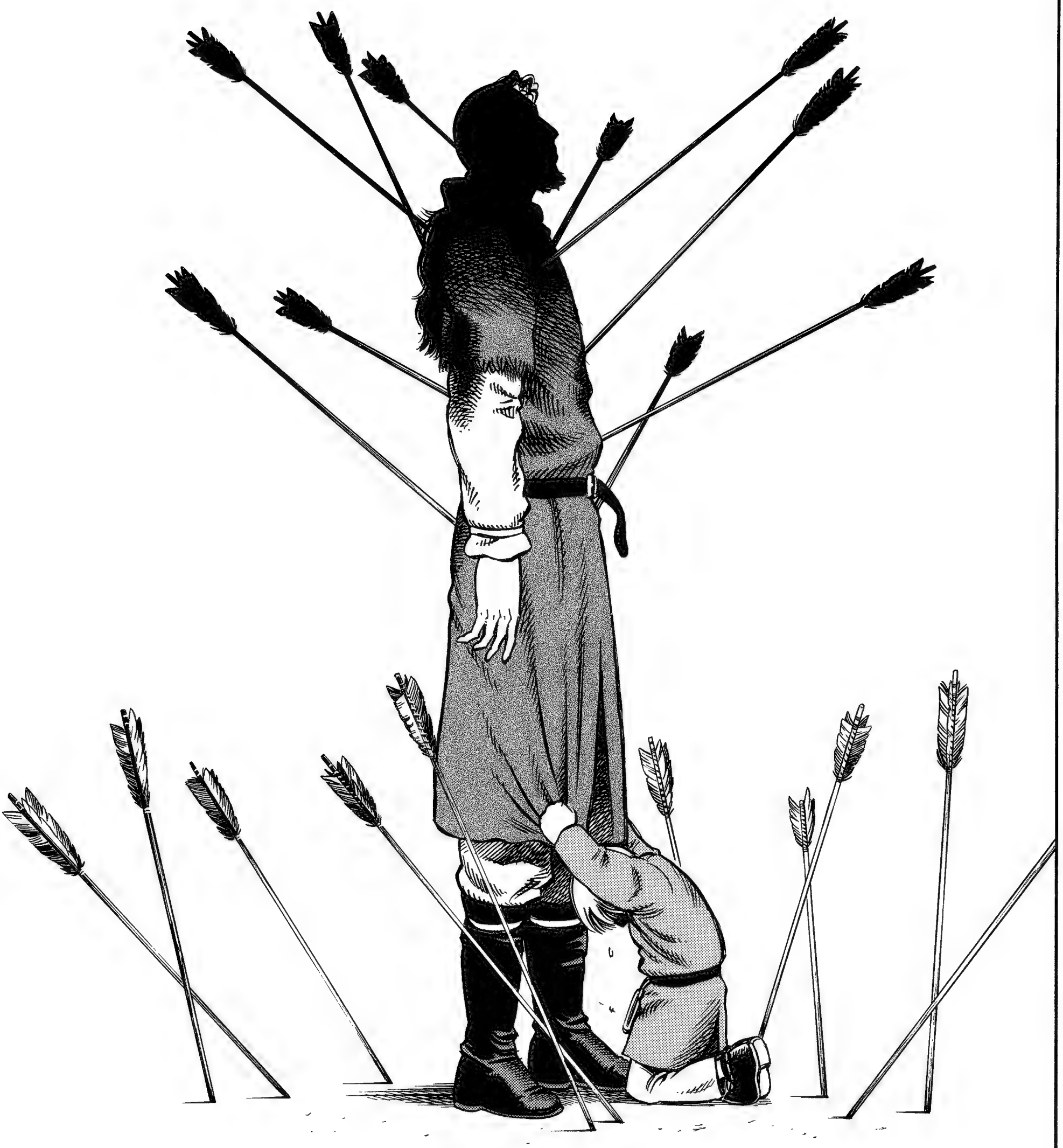
GIVE THANKS TO THORS.

HIS DEATH IS WORTH MORE THAN A HUNDRED GREEN BOYS LIKE YOU.

YOU STUPID LITTLE *SHIT*.

TODAY SHOULD'VE TAUGHT YOU TO VALUE YOUR OWN LIFE.

THD



FATHER IS DEAD.

FATHER, WHO WAS SO BIG AND STRONG...

HE WAS SHOT FULL OF ARROWS ...

...AND DIED.

WHY DID HE GIVE UP HIS SWORD?

A WARRIOR DOESN'T NEED A SWORD?

THAT'S NOT TRUE AT ALL!

SOB!

WHY–?

WHY DID FATHER... HAFTA DIE...?

HNGG!

HNG...

FFK!

DAMN IT... HE LOST...

FATHER *BEAT* HIM...

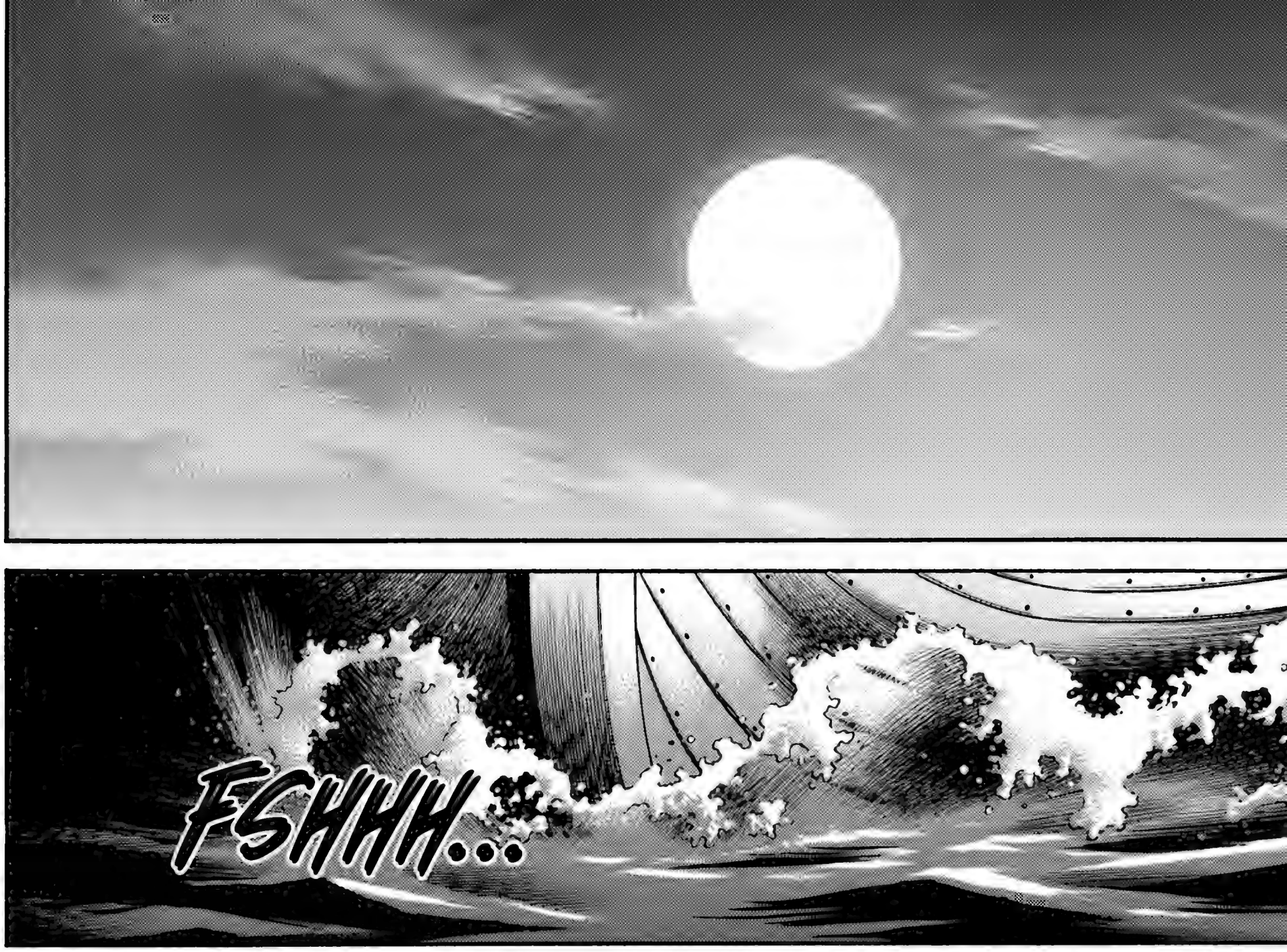
DAMN IT...

WHY IS FATHER DEAD...

...AND *HE'S* STILL ALIVE?

DAMN IT!

DAMN IT, DAMN IT...


FSHHH...

FSHHH...

THIS IS A HELL OF A FIND.

THEY SAID WITHOUT THORS, THEY COULDN'T SAIL IT.

I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE THEY LEFT SUCH A BEAUTY OF A SHIP BEHIND.

A SOLID SPIT-SHINE AND IT'LL BE GOOD AS NEW.

COMES AT A GOOD TIME, THOUGH. WE'VE TAKEN ON SO MANY NEW MEN...

...WE WERE NEEDING A THIRD SH...

HMM?

HE ROWED WITH THE STRENGTH OF FIVE MEN, APPARENTLY.

NO KIDDING! SO THAT HUGE OAR BELONGED TO THORS?

TWENTY-EIGHT WOUNDED.

HOW MANY DEAD?

FSHHH...

NOT A ONE?! IMPOSSIBLE!!

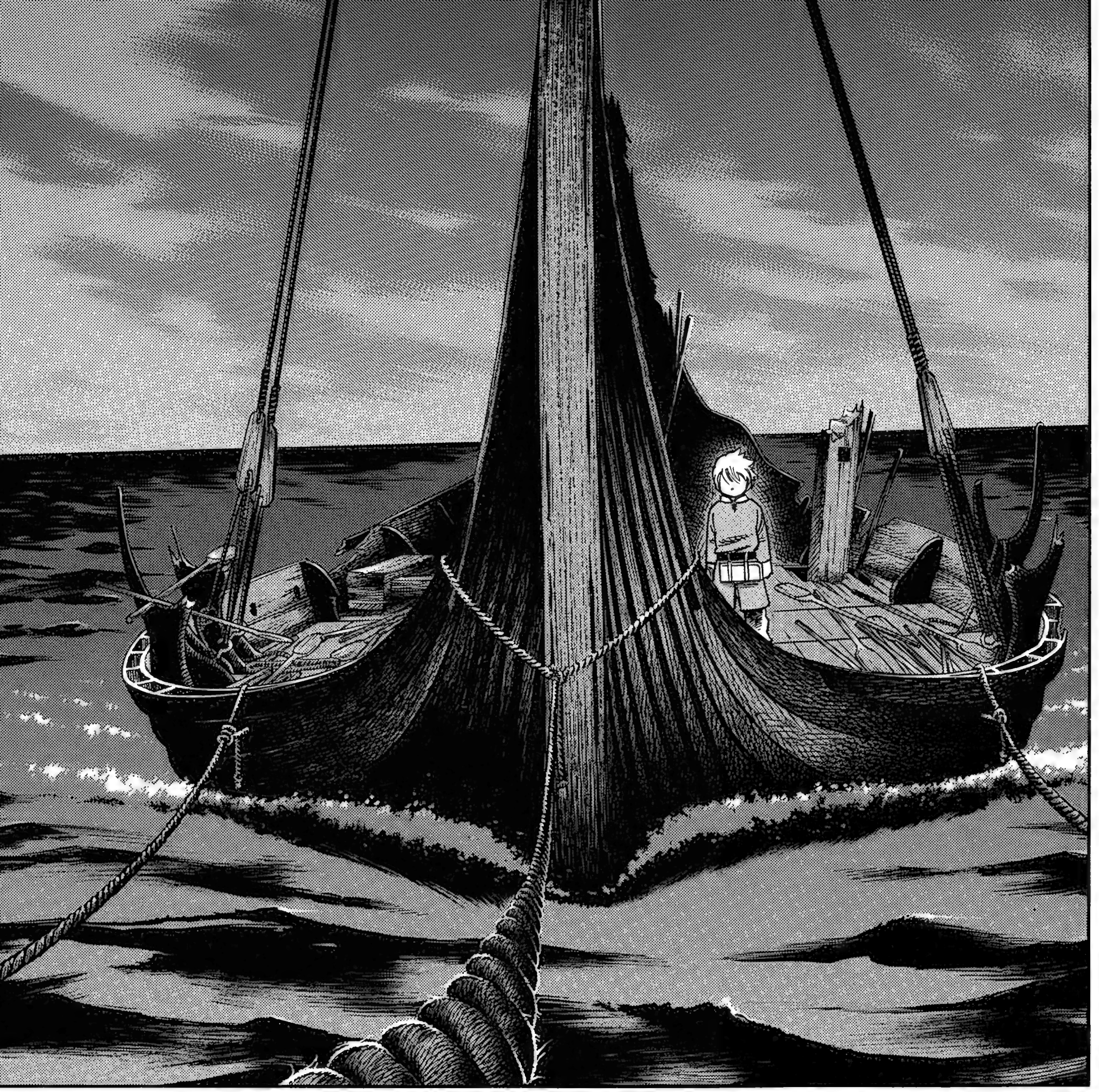
NONE?!

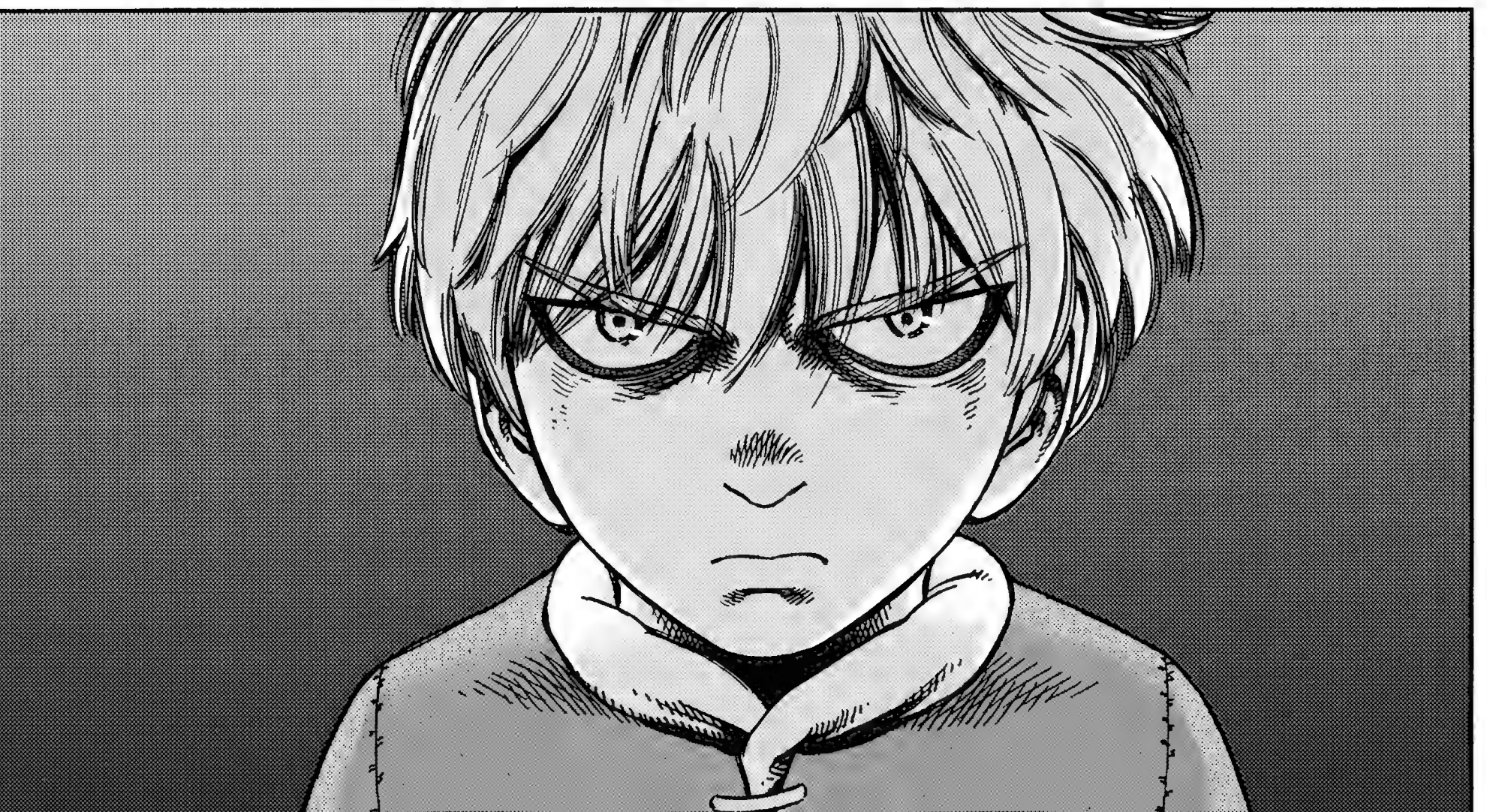
LET A MAN THINK IN PEACE!

COME TO THE STERN, ASKE-LADD!

OI! ASKE-LADD!

...TSK...





IT'S THORS'S LITTLE BOY.

HE MUST HAVE BEEN HIDING IN THE HOLD.

GA HA HA HA!

HYA HA HA!

DON'T HURT ME! I'M QUAKIN' IN ME BOOTS!

LOOK AT THE LITTLE TYKE. HE'S EVEN GOT A LITTLE TINY SWORD!

OOOOOH, HE'S GONNA *KILL* ME!

GRIT...

HOW DARE YOU KILL MY FATHER ?!

HOW DARE YOU ?!

I SWEAR I'LL KILL YOU!!

I'LL KILL YOU, I'LL KILL YOU, I'LL KILL YOU!!

I'LL KILL YOU TOO !!

I'll kill you.

SHH...

WHA...

...

HE'S ONLY A BOY...

...BUT... LOOK AT HIS FUCKING *EYES*...

LEAVE HIM...

HE'LL DIE SOON ENOUGH.

WHADDAYA SAY, AS-KELADD?

SHOULD WE TOSS HIM OVER-BOARD?

AAAAAAA

FFH

FFH

HUFF

HUFF

HUFF

HIC...

DRIP

DRIP

HNG...

FATHER
...

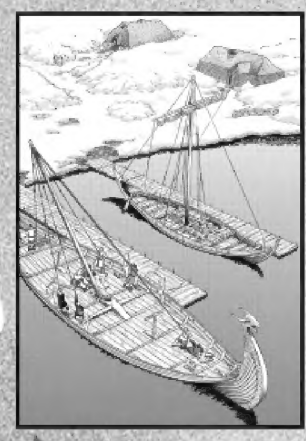
CHAPTER 16 - END

TO BE CONTINUED IN VINLAND SAGA, BOOK TWO

VINLAND SAGA MAP

THORFINN'S TRAVELS

THORFINN'S HOME VILLAGE Thors fled the battlefield to live here, until the Jomsvikings found him.



THORFINN

THORS

YLVA

HELGA

ARI

Sea of Norway

Iceland
(Reykjavik)

Areas under Viking control

Thorfinn's route

Faroes

Shetland

Finland

Lake Ladoga

Norway

Oslo

Sweden

Gulf of Bothnia

Gulf of Finland

Baltic Sea

North Sea

Denmark

W. Dvina R.

Ireland

England

Danelaw

Wales

London

Thames R.

Jomsborg

Elbe R.

Oder R.

Vistula R.

Rhine R.

Weser R.

Atlantic Ocean

Normandy

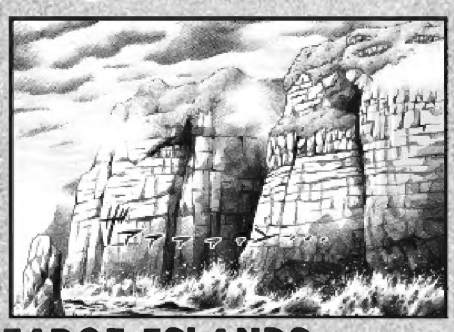
Paris

Francia

Seine R.

Loire R.

Thorfinn's Travels



ASKELADD

FAROE ISLANDS, NORTH ATLANTIC OCEAN

Floki of the Jomsvikings secretly hired Askeladd to attack Thors's party here.

EARLDOM OF NORTHUMBRIA, NORTHERN ENGLAND

The King of England ordered the Viking settlements attacked, starting a full-scale war between Denmark and England.

FLOKI

JOMSBORG

The port town that serves as base of operations for the feared Jomsvikings, led by their chieftain, Sigvaldi.